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Publisher: Mitchell Bellman

Year in review

Growing radical-moderate rift in Mideast produced promise and peril for Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) - The Jewish year 5767 saw a widening

of the rift between moderates and radicals in the Middle East, which in turn produced a paradox for Israel: The rift heightened both a chance for peace between Israel and the moderates and a threat of war between Israel and the radicals.

The year also saw dramatic developments in Israeli domestic politics: Prime Minister Ehud Olmert struggled to hold onto power in the wake of a scathing report on his performance in the second Lebanon war; former Prime Minister Ehud Barak was re-elected leader of the Labor Party; and President Moshe Katsav was forced to resign over a sex scandal.

The defining event for Israeli-Palestinian ties was the bitter Gaza Strip showdown between Fatah-led moderates and Hamas-led radicals. In a week of cruel fighting in June. (Continued on page 16)



Hamas military members ride a captured Fatah armored personnel carrier during a celebration rally June 15, 2007, in Gaza City. (Source: Ismail Khateb/BPH IMAGES)

Conversion process contentious issue

Conversion to Judaism is as old as the religion itself, but beyond the biblical period, it has only recently had an impact on Jewish life. That being said, in the past few decades, the impact of conversion has been significant. Opinions on it range from viewing conversion as a realistic way to help save the Jewish people from extinction to the belief it is actually one of the primary threats to the continued survival of the religion.

As with most contentious issues, the truth

probably lies somewhere in between.

In biblical times, conversion was common and easy. All it required was joining a Jewish household (through marriage or as a servant) or merely deciding to be Jewish. Nothing special had to be done. The convert simply had to start behaving as a Jew and following Jewish law.

Talmudic times saw the establishment of a conversion process and ceremony. Author Lawrence J. Epstein writes in his book Conversion to Judaism that most comments in the Tal-

mud on conversion are positive, none more so than one made by Rabbi Johanan, who said God exiled Jews from Israel for the express purpose of increasing the number of converts. While this seems to be absurdly extreme, Epstein points out the converts must have been viewed as very valuable, to have someone use their increase as a justification for Jewish exile

However, with the rise of Christianity and anti-Semitism (from Christians and Muslims), (Continued on page 8)

Hillel House opens

By Michael Regenstreif It was a long time coming, according to Jewish Students' Association (JSA) Hillel director Dov ben-Reuven, but Ottawa's Jewish university students finally have a Hillel House to call their own,

The house, at 284 Laurier Avenue East in the historic Sandy Hill district near the University of Ottawa campus, had its grand opening late last month, just in time for the new school year.

In an interview with The Bulletin, conducted in the house as the summer-long reno-

(Continued on page 13)





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Learning about the Holocaust

Public school teacher spends month in Israel

about the Holocaust and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict first-hand, an amazing expe-

Mascoe, 46, travelled to Israel for about a month this summer to attend lectures at Yad Vashem and to experience the country.

A Grade 6 teacher at Charles H. Hulse Public School, Mascoe was selected for the Arie Van Mansum Award as well as the Golden Apple Award for Education for his work in bridging the gap between Jewish students of Hillel Academy and the Muslim students of

For his efforts. Yad Vashem offered him a scholarship in the spring to take part in an international semi-

"To me there was no negative side to going," says Mascoe. "As far as the education, learning about anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and

Patrick Mascoe describes incredible. We had about four his first trip to Israel to learn lectures a day. I couldn't have learned more, and I couldn't have learned it from better

> One of the highlights of his trip involved an "eyeopening" trip to the West Bank to Bethlehem with eight other Yad Vashem students

"I'm a Christian, so I wanted to go to Bethlehem.

'You hear so much about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I don't think it's really fair if you only hear it from one side," he says.

Explaining that while others thought he was crazy for going to Bethlehem, he wasn't worried, and even had a great meal and an uplifting conversation with a man in the city, who said, "Jews and Arabs, we should be able to live side by side."

Despite the man's good intentions and kind words, the posters of suicide bombers and anti-Semitic graffiti littering the walls



Patrick Mascoe stands in front of a security wall in the Jewish neighbourhood of Gilo, near Jerusalem.

outside conveyed a conflict- tours to various sites found in ing message between peace

During his trip, Mascoe also enjoyed a number of

"We were in Nazareth, we were at the Sea of Galilee,' he says. "It's like the Bible has just come to life for me. I read the Bible and I [see] all these places I've been to

Mascoe also mentions seeing a famous film in a different light while in Israel.

"I got to see Schindler's List with some of his Jews," he says, "and I went to Mount and saw Oskar Schundler's grave.

Mascoe says he even met one lady who pulled him aside and showed pictures of Schindler and told him stories about the German who saved over a thousand Jews in the Second World War

One of the first things that shocked Masone about Israel was the level of security

"You see guns every where. You see young kids everywhere," he says, "wearing jeans and crocs and T-shirts, but always on alert. It was kind of crazy, but within two days you're used to it, and it's no big deal. It's a different mindset, a different mentality. The trip to Israel provided

Mascoe with an opportunity to discover more ways to expand his teaching at CHPS. One of the biggest and most challenging programs he has involves teachhis class, consisting predominantly of Muslims, about the Holocaust.

Mascoe chose to teach students about the Holocaust not only because it is the "most documented genocide in the history of the world," but also because "Jews happen to be a group of people [Muslims] generally don't like, or are [at least1 convinced they don't like. You have to fight that negative stereotype and that negative education they're getting, to give them an education that's a little more uplifting and ... correct.

"One of the things I really try to stress is the Righteous Among the Nations," he says, referring to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

"Holocaust education can be such a downer obviously. You show them how bad the world can be, but it doesn't have to be this way because there were people that stood up." he say:

"If you had more people stand up against this kind of racism and intolerance, genocide wouldn't happen. That's the message I'm always trying to present."

During his trip, Mascoe decided to ask the professors and members of Yad Vashem if there were any Muslims the Nations. Although they couldn't think of any offhand, Mascoe discovered there is at least one Muslim family who has dedicated themselves to helping Jews, and says he plans to tell his students in order to get their attention.

"You can't just teach [Muslim students] the bad stuff," he says. "You need to show them an example of someone who did the right thing. It shows Muslims don't have to dislike Jews. They valued them for their character and didn't really care what their religion was. They valued them as people."

As a way of relating to his students, Mascoe sometimes asks them if they like actorcomedian Adam Sandler.

"They say 'Yeah, he's funny' and [when] I tell them he's Jewish," he says, "all of a sudden that just throws off the whole 'we hate Jews'

Mascoe says he hopes to not only continue with his program but to expand it beyond his school.

"My ultimate goal is to see others get involved. It doesn't even have to focus solely on Muslims and Jews. It is important to open the lines of communication between all people."

Mascoe, who is currently in the process of trying to adopt a child with his wife, says he will promote his teaching program as long as

"If they get me in front of the United Nations speaking, I'll do that. I'll just keep yapping along until no one cares any more or until it's no longer a story because Muslims and Jews are getting along. It could happen; you need to think big. I'm think-

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New congregation in St. Petersburg, Russia

By Matt Siegel
PETERSBURG. RUSSIA (JTA) - When Rabbi Stas Woiciechowicz blows the shofar this Rosh

Hashanah its distinctive sound won't just be ringing in a new year, it will be ushcring in a new era for the Progressive movement in the former Soviet Union.

By the end of the secular year, he hopes to be holding services in St. Petersburg's Sha'arei Shalom Synagogue, the movement's first community-owned synagogue among some 21 Progressive congregations in

For Wojciechowicz, that can't come soon enough.

"As soon as you have your own space, you are a king," said the 30-year-old rabbi, newly arrived in St.

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Petersburg after his recent ordination from Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem.

Indeed, for the former Soviet Union's languishing Reform movement, a synagogue fit for a king would be a welcome addition, and a kingly shul is just what they will be getting.

OROSIR, the Russian branch of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, purchased the prime downtown space, an apartment building constructed in Stalin's time for Soviet naval

The funds were donated by the West London Synagogue, where the community's recently departed Rabbi Michael Farbman once spent five years as assistant rabbi.

Farbman left Russia in June for a new posting in the

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Yuri and Tatyana Podolny with their 19-year-old daughter, Dina, and 10-day-old daughter Eva, at her baby naming during the Sha'arei Shalom dedication ceremony.

United States, but the community he built is moving ahead at full steam to get the building up and running.

A high-profile dedication ceremony was held on June 8, attended by Israeli and local dignitaries.

The 5,000-square-metre facility will include a children's centre decked out with plasma screen televisions, a day school and a youth club, illustrating just how much importance Sha'arei Shalom places on adding young congregants to its flagging rolls.

"It's very important," said Wojciechowicz, "that the children have a place that they feel is their own."

Sha'arei Shalom's executive director, Yuri Podolny, told JTA the plan is first to open the second floor, which houses the kindergarten, followed shortly thereafter by the remaining areas.

Until that time, the congregation will continue meeting in its current location - an office space at Yesod, the city's new Jewish community centre operated struggle to bring in bodies by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Commit-

on Shabbat.

Reform leaders and

members of the city's Pro-

gressive community hope

the new synagogue and its

passionate young rabbi will

portend a sea change for

post-Soviet Jewry.

A native of Uzbekistan who made alivah along with his mother in his early teens, Woiciechowicz was effusive about the benefits the community has enjoyed during its time in Yesod chief among them the increased foot traffic and the high quality of the building's facilities.

He complained, however, about the cumbersome bureaucratic process involved in requesting rooms for events, and expressed security concerns, especially ensuring that their Torahs are kept safe.

Wojciechowicz hopes the months the congregation spent at Yesod will translate into greater attendance when they move into their

On a recent Friday evening, the room was packed for Shabbat services, with an eclectic group of at least 45 people - an impressive number for any synagogue in the former Soviet Union, where it's usually a

Alian Taylor

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Great-West Life

Studies have shown most post-Soviet Jews are profoundly secular, owing to the long-term effects of communism's stateenforced atheism. But the Reform movement has, for many reasons, struggled to gain a foothold in a region dominated by Chabad.

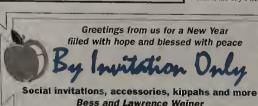
Sha'arei Shalom has only about 300 congregants, out of the estimated 70,000 to 100,000 Jews in Russia's second largest city. The main goal in building the new synagogue is to increase that number

Wojciechowicz and others have big plans, including a Limmud, or intensive study seminar, for Russian children. Whether all their plans will come to fruition is impossible to know, but his eyes shine brightly when he talks about the future for Judaism here.

"People here are grasping for God," said ciechowicz. "They want to get to him, but they don't know the way."

In Appreciation

With a full heart and gratitude to Hashem, my husband Sam and I thank our dear family and friends for your many cards, letters, donations to various charities, emails and phone calls during my recent illness. Your support and encouragement were a great help to me. We wish all of You and Your Families a Happy and Healthy New Dora and Sam Litwack



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Larry King keynote speaker at Negev Dinner honouring Ottawa Citizen publisher

Nyman Engel The 2007 JNF Negev Dinner, honouring Citizen Publisher Jim Orban and featuring CNN talk-show host Larry King as keynote speaker, promises to be a spectacular evening. The event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 25, at the Ottawa Congress

"We're delighted that Jim Orban agreed to accept the honour JNF Ottawa wishes to bestow on him," said John Greenberg, president. Ottawa chapter of the JNF. "He is most deserving of the tribute.

Centre, 55 Colonel By

"Jim has chosen as his project the first Residential Village for Autistic Young Adults to be built in Beersheba," he said. "Approximately one in 143 Israeli newborns is autistic and the care, education and support required to raise these children put an incredible strain on their families. The proceeds of the 2007 Negev Dinner will be directed to establishing the village."

In addition to its traditional land development work, Jewish National Fund has always given top priority to building projects that help Israelis live as 'normal' a life as possible.

In creating the Village for Autistic Young Adults, JNF will partner with the Israeli Society for Autistic

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Children and will help the most vulnerable members

The village will house six residential buildings, each containing about eight apartment units. There will be dining, recreational and other facilities that will enable the young adults to live in a highly supervised but family-like environment promoting independence and safety. JNF will prepare the infrastructure for this remarkable project, as well as all the landscaping and outdoor facilities of the community.

"Jim has been a devoted friend and ardent supporter sonality in Miami. of the Ottawa and Canadian Jewish communities and of the State of Israel," said Stephen Victor, last year's

"He is being honoured in recognition of his commitment to many charitable causes in Ottawa and journalist Jim Orban.' throughout Canada, and in recognition of the dedicated professionalism he has exhibited over decades in the field of journalism,



including enhancing the quality of the Ottawa Citizen on behalf of Canwest,"

Keynote speaker Larry King, who recently celebrated his 50th year in broadcasting, is renowned worldwide for his scintillating nightly show with its mix of celebrity interviews. political debates and topical discussions. The broadcasting icon has conducted more than 50,000 interviews in his long career. Before broadcasting to an international audience, the award-winning journalist was a popular media per-

"Due to his demanding schedule, Larry King is very selective about accepting speaking engagements," said Greenberg. happy, indeed, that he agreed to speak at this JNF evening honouring fellow

For information about purchasing corporate tables or to purchase tickets, please call the JNF office at 613-798-2411.

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Adopt an unaffiliated family during the holiday

Rosh Hashanah is the time of year when we take stock of our life experiences over the past year and the challenges and goals we set for ourselves for the year to come. This year, as chair of the Federation, I have reflected on the abovementioned from a community perspective, admiring our community's many accomplishments and planning for the considerable work yet to be done.

Last February, we held our first-ever community symposium. Ninety people representing virtually all beneficiary agencies and Jewish institutions in Ottawa came together over a two-and-half-day period. All participants, including major donors and individuals who have encountered difficulties in making a connection with the community, came together to share ideas and concerns about how to build a viable, sustainable, interactive and inclusive Jewish community with strong Jewish values.

The symposium brought to light many issues within our community, but in particular, it clarified and heightened our community's need to be more inclusive and in tune with a younger generation.

So how do we create programs, develop



Federation Report

Jonathan Freedman Chair

initiatives and establish institutions that bring together our many divergent groups who share a cultural heritage?

In May, I had the pleasure of meeting Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the American founder of the Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York City, Rabbi of the Israeli city of Efrat, and founder and dean of the Ohr Torah Stone Institutions, a network of high schools, colleges and graduate programs in both the United States and Israel.

Rabbi Riskin, who belongs to Modern Orthodox stream of Judaism, had a dream nearly 20 years ago, to inspire a new movement of Jewish leadership that would successfully synthesize commitment to Jewish way of life with the needs of contemporary Westem society. His goal was to work to unify

world Jewry by promoting a Judaism based on tolerance, openness and inclusiveness.

Rabbi Riskin gave us his impressions of our community. He shared his insights on some of the innovative and highly successful programs he has spearheaded in Israel; programs that help foster and strengthen Jewish identity

Several of Rabbi Riskin's programs are focused around the Jewish holidays. On Erev Yom Kippur, he conducts discussion groups where people come and share their feelings and experiences about Yom Kippur. Rabbi Riskin's programs take place in over 80 community eentres in Israel, are open to anyone regardless of religious affiliation and conducted by rabbis trained in Riskin's Ohr Torah Stone Institute Last year more than 90,000 secular Israelis participated in these meaningful programs to talk about their heritage

This type of programming could serve as a starting point for creating opportunities and experiences for Jews to get together to discuss universal Jewish themes with one another in an informal and relaxed manner.

During the symposium Rabbi Reuven

Bulka suggested each one of us adopts an unaffiliated lewish family and introduce them to how we celebrate our Jewish heritage. In fact, Bram Bregman, director of Torah High and NCSY, will be holding discussion groups with teens and university students during the High Holidays at Machzikei Hadas

I think Rabbi Bulka and Rabbi Riskin are on the right track. Why not make room at your Rosh Hashanah table for an unaffiliated family in our community, or build a Succeah for family and friends to share stories of our heritage; or simply get together with family and friends to talk about how your parents, grandparents and great grandparents celebrated the high holidays

As symposium guest speaker Rabbi Avaraham Infeld said, "We are all mishpocha (family)."

As Jews we share in a similar experience, from different facets of faith, vet we are all joined together in a common whole. Let's continue to build our community based on that ideal.

Aviva and myself would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

Days of Awe challenge us to make the right choices

a few short weeks, most of our community will be celebrating the Yamim Noraim, the sacred days of aw

As we prepare ourselves for the "big event," it is not too long ago that some of us prepared for a different kind of major event. July 21, 2007 will live on in the minds of nearly 12 million people as the day the seventh volume of the Harry Potter series was unveiled. The New York Times reviewed a stolen copy of the book and pronounced it a literary masterpiece. The publisher threatened to sue the Times with the same venom that accompanied the publication of the Pentagon Papers 30 years earlier.

I am not too embarrassed to announce I anxiously waited with many others to receive my copy and discover if Harry survived approximately 700 pages. I waited with anticipation to discover what would be the words J.K. Rowling used to end the saga of Harry Potter.

It took me nearly two days to finish the book. I had avoided all reviews and all text messages as I wanted to have the final moments revealed to me by the author, not someone else. When I came to the last three words, it dawned on me J.K. Rowling had written a very religious story

It was not her use of the term "chosen one" that moved me to consider her books to be of a religious nature. It was not simply the long arduous struggle between good and evil that characterized the religious thrust of the seven volumes. No, it was that, throughout each book, Harry and his friends and their adversaries are presented with the essential religious dilemma: how, in the face of adversity, can one continue to believe in



something greater than oneself?

The Harry Potter books are ostensibly children's books, but the issue of belief is not solely a children's concern, it is the concern of us all.

Those who have read the books know Harry's only living relative dies in book five and his mentor. Dumbledore, dies in book six. It would have been expected and understandable if Harry, the now lonely, burdened teenager, retreated into his shell and announced he was unable to finish the task assigned him.

We all know so many individuals who. when faced with life's unfaimess, rail against belief and withdraw from the world of religion. But Harry does neither. Instead, he picks himself up and continues to struggle, still believing, even as he fights the forces of

In Chapter 34 of book seven, Harry walks back into the magic forest for what he thinks will be the last time. He enters that forest with a resignation bom of a choice. The story places Harry in a situation that appears to leave him no choice but to die if he wants to defeat Voldemort.

Yet, in spite of the odds against his succeeding, he makes a choice for life; for good, for what is ethical, and for what is best for those who love him. All around him individto fight evil, knowing death is a likely consequence, and some will choose the side of evil, understanding their choice denies them any hope of redemption.

Is it not true that all of us have walked into the forest, sensing a choice awaits us? It is far too simple to relegate Harry's story to the shelves of magic and children's fairy tales. His tales are the tales of all religious heroes. Did Abraham not take a lonely walk of faith and make a choice to believe? Was his choice to believe not rewarded?

'I set hefore you life and death, choose life that you may live." These words were not written by J.K.Rowling, they are words of Torah. They are words that have been read by far more individuals than those who

have read Harry Potter, and they may be read long after Harry is relegated to the library

They are the words that will be the foundation of our Yontuf experience. These words challenge us all to make choices, to choose to believe even when there is no magic, to believe when there are no wands, to believe when there are no wizards or witches. Yet, like Harry, the believers are rewarded, not with royalties, but with life that echoes the last words of the Potter saga, "All was well."

High Holy days are about making choices. Every choice has consequences, but the choice to believe in our tradition, to believe in our people, to believe in our God, is a choice that leads to a life in which "all is



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An inclusive community; your input is welcome

When I first became editor of the Bulletin, people would jokingly express their condolences and wish me luck dealing with the thin-skinned people I would inevitably upset.

Some warned how unfriendly and unwelcoming the community was to people who hadn't been part of the Ottawa Jewish landscape for at least a generation or two. Others said don't expect to run any news stories that are at all controversial or would upset the powers-that-bc.

Boy, were they wrong.

On a personal level, the outpouring of good wishes and support from my bosses, co-workers and members of the community have been heartening and very much appreciated as I face a rather difficult medical future. It gives me strength and hope.

To this day, I remain amazed by the passion and caring of the many volunteers I have met who work long hours to make this a better community and welcoming to all.

On a professional level, I found once you explain your reasoning to those so-called "thin-skinned" people – surprise – most of them understand.

As well, running controversial news stories or articles on individuals who aren't exactly in the mainstream hasn't been a problem. In fact, it has made for a



Editor

Barry Fishman

better newspaper.

I never really understood the jibe about this being an unfriendly community, especially when you consider that, for more than a year now, the Federation and community organizations have been working on ways to reach the unaffiliated and those who, for whatever reason, feel disconnected, 1911.

And given what I know about this community, I was not particularly surprised to see individuals from all walks of life with different political, social and religious beliefs sit down and in a calm respectful way discuss how to make the community a more inclusive place as they did during the symposium on the future of the Ottawa Jewish community.

At that event, out-of-town guest speakers marvelled at how well the community got along. It seems, where they come from, having secular, unaffiliated and religious and not-so religious Jews of all stripes sitting down together to work on making a better community is unusual, to say the least.

Our attitude of inclusiveness may be just what saves us. By being welcoming and working with others, regardless of their religious observance or stance on certain issues, by reaching out to the younger generation and those whose partners are another religion, we will not only grow our community but will strengthen it

We do this by being non-judgmental and running events that speak to them, be it a religious or secular program. We also need to follow through, not just on collecting names, but by being welcoming when we meet new people and letting them know of future events that may interest them.

These are exciting times. Over the next few months, decisions will be made and some of the recommendations from the symposium will be implemented. The Federation has already begun the process of outreach by funding organizations involved in programs to the unaffiliated.

The Bulletin will continue to cover these important stories. We plan to speak with organizations involved with outreach and to some of the people they are trying to reach to see how the initiative is working. We will keep you up to date on the choices the community makes post-

symposium and explain what they will mean.

The Ottawa Jewish community is diverse and, over the last number of years, the Bulletin has made a concerted effort to try to reflect this in the stories we write. Our overarching goal is to build community by having all of us talk to each other through the Bulletin.

And we mean all of us. Including the ones we sometimes disagree with. If it is news we feel the community should know, it will be covered by the *Bulletin*.

With that in mind, we have beefed up both our local and international coverage. Michael Regenstreif, our new assistanteditor, began working part time in August and has now joined the Bulletin full time. He can be reached at 613-798-4696, ext. 310 or mregenstreif@ottawajewishbulletin.com. In addition, the Bulletin will now carry stories from JTA, the news service of the Jewish people.

We want your input to your community newspaper. If you have a story idea, please let us know. And for those who are not regular subscribers, please join us in helping build the community by subscribing. See page 40 for details.

On behalf of the staff and advisory board of the *Bulletin*, I would like to wish you all a Shana Tova. May the New Year bring peace, health and happiness to all.

Voyage to Vilkaviskis Lithuania - part 1

July 1995. The road from Kaunas, in central Lithuania, to Vilkaviskis, a town near the western border with Russia, looks like Vermont. Pastoral farmland, dairy cows, woods of birch and pine.

Inside tiny grocery stores in the churchvillages dotting the road, old women sit behind large wooden abacuses. Back in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital, counter-women will calculate your bill on the ancient contraption, then punch the total onto the display of a gleaming new electronic cash register to show what you owe.

This incongruity spills out onto the sidewalks. Older Lithuanians remember the statue of Lenin that stood until recently in Vilnius's main square. Many still dress in drab Soviet costume. The young wear T-shirts or smart-looking suits. They frequent bars and cafes that wouldn't look out of place in Manhattan. They speak English.

One of these twentysomethings – a pagnety for foreign tourists. He arranged for a car, a driver and a tour guide to meet my wife and me in Kaunas, and take us to Vilkaviskis. Our guide is Chayim, a Holocaust survivor's son. As we left the agency to catch a bus to Kaunas, the young entrepreneur sand Chayim would identify himself at the Kaunas hus stop by waving "a Jewish flag ... I hope it's not too big."



Alan Echenberg

Chayini met us with a small Israeli flag in his hand. He is fiftyish, short and gregarious. An engineer by training, he makes a living teaching Hebrew and showing tourists the historical Jewish sites of western Lithuania.

Of about 6,000 Jews living in Lithuania in 1995, 5,000 are in Vilnius – or Vilna – and most of the rest in Kannas – or Kovno – the second-largest city. With 100,000 Jewish residents before the Second World War, Vilna was once dubbed the Jerusalem of Lithuania. Of the 96 synagogues that once stood there, only one remains.

In Vilkaviskis, where we're headed, Chayim says the only remaining Jewish family emigrated about five years ago.

We're not sure what to expect in Vilkaviskis, burned to the ground by the Nazis and rebuilt after the war. It is almost impossible to get my wife's father - who was born there in 1917 and escaped to England several years before the Holocaust - to talk much about it. It is especially difficult now, as dementia rapidly extinguishes his remaining memories.

In 1995, Lithuania is palpably in the afterglow of sudden freedom. After decades of Soviet oppression, its native language, culture, and politics are newly predominant. The monuments and Lithuanian-language plaques are new and shiny.

But this shininess illuminates some ugly, once-hidden historical truths. Information about what happened to the Jews here is freely available, but it's hard to tell if Lithuanians pay much heed as they exorcise 50 years of their own subjugation.

You wonder what its teachers think of the kindergarten that stands on the former spot of the Great Synagogue of Vilna, destroyed by the Nazis and paved over by the Soviets. You wonder what workers think as they climb up to the trade-union building on steps built out of old Jewish gravestones.

You wonder about the implication in the voice of the young guy from the tourist agency as he spoke to a colleague in Lithuanian and used the word "Zydu" – Jew – to describe Chavim.

Do young people know what happened to the Zydus here?

In Vilkaviskis, the liquidation of the Jewish community was a model of Nazi efficiency. It was accomplished in just a few months in 1941, after Germany invaded.

Throughout Lithuania, the Nazis also had willing local help. In Kovno, for instance, the slaughter began with a well-documented incident in the yard of a gas station. A 25-year-old Lithuanian stood in the middle of a cheering crowd, holding a large iron bar as thick as his arm. One by one, Jewish men were brought before him. As mothers lifted their children for a better view and as German soldiers snapped photos, the "dealer of death" murdered dozens of Jews with repeated blows to the head.

In one photograph of the incident, hanging in a Vilna museum, the killer stands in the foreground and stares defiantly into the camera. When I saw that photo, I wondered how many young Lithuanians have looked into those eyes and confronted this past.

No doubt the Nazis oversaw the brutal treatment of Lithuania's Jews, but as my dather-in-law has said, the Jews of Lithuania – including most of his family – were slaughtered in Lithuania. There were few deportations and few obstacles here to the Nazis' Final Solution.

(to be continued in the next issue)

Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.



SUKKOT

JEWISH RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES 2007-2008

In an attempt to communicate and promote better education in the public domain, we have sent a listing of important Jewish Holy Days for the school calendar year, 2007-2008 to all schools in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. We hope this will serve as a guide and help prevent timetabling conflicts

Below find a copy of the relevant dates.

Should you encounter a problem, please bring the situation to the attention of your school council or principal, if the problem is not resolved, please call us at 798-4696, ext. 255 or e-mail us at fgreenspoon@jewishottawa.com.

All holy days begin the preceding sundown \$

ROSH HASHANAH Thursday, September 13, 2007 Friday, September 14, 2007

Saturday, September 22, 2007

YOM KIPPUR

Thursday, September 27, 2007 Friday, September 28, 2007 Thursday, October 4, 2007

Friday, October 5, 2007

Sunday, April 20, 2008 PASSOVER

Monday, April 21, 2008 Saturday, April 26, 2008 Monday, April 27, 2008

SHAVUOT Monday, June 9, 2008

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

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In Israel, participants will celebrate the 60th anniversay of Israel on Independence Day together with Jews from Israel and all parts of the world.

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OTTAWA ADULT INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday, September 20, 2007 Soloway JCC, 7:00 PM - Social Hall A

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Conversion: Who is a Jew?

the Jewish view of conversion became less positive. Proselytizing and forced conversions were fundamentally un-Jewish and cast a negative light on conversion in general.

Further, with the rise of anti-Semitism, conversion to Judaism became increasingly dangerous, both to converts and the community accepting them. Those expressing a desire to convert were understandably viewed by rabbis with great suspicion.

Given that anyone converting to Judaism would have to give up family completely and live in relative isolation with a persecuted community, and risking death to do so, it isn't surprising Jewish cohversions were few and far between in this period.

This essentially remained the status quo until after the Second World War, when Jews began to really integrate into mainstream society. With integration, we see the beginnings of the trend to convert to marry someone Jewish, but also greater conversions of gentiles who were otherwise unconnected to the religion.

That's when things got complicated.

The problem stems from the question: who is a Jew? The process of conversion itself isn't really that difficult. The prospective converts must go in front of a beit din - a court made up of three judges. If male, he must be circumcised (and if he is already circumcised, a ritual drop of blood must be drawn). Converts must be informed of the mitzvot, and accept and agree to abide by Jewish law. Finally, they must be immersed in the mikvah.

Those are the basics. Of course, most hopeful converts are put through a course of study that varies depending on who is converting them, and must demonstrate to the beit din a satisfactory understanding and knowledge of Jewish life, holidays and traditions.

The difficulty arises between the differing branches of Judaism and how they interpret these fundamental requirements.

For the Orthodox, Jewish law and practice have remained unchanged and cannot be changed. These are the words of God and it is not the job of humans to second-guess them. Therefore, someone wishing to convert must accept the laws and do his or her best to follow all of them.

The other large Jewish streams - Reform, Conservatives and Reconstruction - are more liberal to differing degrees, as they all consider Jewish law (halacha) to be more flexible than the Orthodox do. From the Orthodox point-of-view, anyone converting in these movements has not been instructed properly and has not truly accepted God's law. The conversion isn't valid.

Of course, to further complicate the issue, the different streams within Orthodoxy don't necessarily agree with each other's interpretation of halacha and won't always accept each other's conversions. The most extreme case of



The entry to the Naomi Bulka Community Mikvah

this involves the Chief Rabbinate of Israel which currently accepts no conversion done in North America as legitimate, including those performed by Orthodox rabbis. (In contrast, the Israeli government grants all Jews by choice the right of return.)

So, who is a Jew? That entirely depends on who you ask.

The truth is, it wouldn't really matter so much if it weren't for the problem - many call it a crisis - of a dwindling number of Jews, primarily through intermarriage. The latest statistics show that when a Jew marries a non-Jew, only about 30 per cent of their children consider themselves Jewish.

While everyone's preferred response to this would be to have Jews simply choose to marry other Jews, it is not a realistic solution in today's world. The liberal response is outreach. By welcoming the non-Jewish partner into synagogue life, they hope to encourage the non-Jewish partner towards conversion, or at least that any children will be raised in a more actively Jewish home

For the Orthodox, of course, this is an invalid response, and there are some Orthodox rabbis who won't even convert someone for the sake of marriage, as it casts doubt upon the potential convert's sincerity.

Marriage is still the primary reason for conversion, but, as we will explore in the next Bulletin, there are many other motivations for choosing to become Jewish. And readers might be surprised to discover that even when people convert for marriage, many believe Judaism was always their destiny and meeting the Jewish partner just made their path a little smoother.

In October's Bulletin, we will take a look at the community response to conversion. The Torah instructs us to "love the stranger ('ger'also the word for convert), for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deut. 10:18-19) But there are still those who have not quite shaken off the legacy of hundreds of years of suspicions about a gentile's desire to join the Jewish people. How welcoming is our community towards those who choose to be Jewish?



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A History of the Negev Dinner

In 1948, with the creation of the State of Israel, a new form of Canadian communal expression in support of Jewish National Fund came into being. It was called the "Negev Dinner" which was created to honour outstanding communal leaders and significant events in Jewish life and, in so doing, gathered support for development of the Negev Desert which constituted some 60 per cent of the land area in the newly formed Jewish State.

The first Negev Dinner in Canada was held in 1948 hosted in honour of the newly formed State of Israel and was sponsored by Jewish National Fund of Toronto. Proceeds from these early Negev Dinners were initially directed towards the Negev; however, as needs in Israel grew, other priorities were added.

JNF Canada sponsors Negev Dinners and Negev Galas from coast to coast and the proceeds are devoted to major projects throughout Israel. This year, Negev Dinners and Galas took place in Barrie, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, London, Windsor Hamilton, Montreal and in the fall will take place in Ottawa and in Toronto. These events represent a continuing rallying point for JNF community-wide support across Canada. Negev Dinners provide a prestigious forum for honouring community leaders and those who have made outstanding contributions on behalf of the Jewish State.

JNF Ottawa 2007 Negev Dinner Thursday, October 25, Ottawa Congress Centre. Honouree: Jim Orban, Publisher, The Ottawa Citizen Keynote Speaker: Larry King

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Ottawa granny group to march in solidarity with African grannies

By Jason Sherriff

Imagine you live in poverty. Imagine you must take care of children from all over the community whose parents were killed by an HIV/AIDS pandemic. Now imagine there are 13 million other children in the same situation, all needing care. For African grandmothers, no imagination is necessary; this plight is real, and Ottawa's granny groups are doing their part to help with a Solidarity March on September 8.

Designed to raise awareness of the terrible situation African children face, and how grandmothers often take care of more than a dozen orphans at a time, the Solidarity March will begin with a gathering at City Hall before heading to Parliament Hill to voice the concerns of the granny groups.

The granny groups are part of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, initiated by the Stephen Lewis Foundation last year. According to Peggy Edwards, one of the founders of Ottawa-based One World Grannies, the campaign has grown from less than 30 granny groups to encompass about 160 groups across Canada and abroad.

Although the group is part of the solidarity march to raise public and government awareness of the situation of African grandmothers, Edwards is quick to point out that One World Grannies is not the only Ottawa-based granny group.

"There is a large network in the Ottawa-Gatineau region," she says, "of 15 groups. We are just one group."

Edwards, who co-founded One World Grannies with Mary Jane Sterne last year, says she was aware of the dire situation in Africa well before the SLF had a conference, the Grandmothers' Gathering, in which nearly 100 African grandmothers met with 200 Canadian grandmothers to describe their challenges.

"It changed my life," says Edwards, grandmother of 10. "When you meet someone who actually has to go [through this], doing nothing is not an option."

Marcia Manne, a member of the Ottawa Jewish community for about 35 years, says the grandmothers' conference opened her eyes to this "very important cause.

"I have five grandchildren," she says, "and [the African grandmothers' situation] really touched my heart."

Manne, who says she had been thinking about Africa for a long time, decided to do her part and contribute to One World Grannies, since it was a "great opportunity" for her to help change the situation in Africa.

With the Solidarity March, Manne hopes people will start to realize how large the problem in Africa is, and hopes people of all ages will support their cause

"I really hope the march will put this more in the spotlight," she says, "so people are more aware of the plight of the African grandmothers in dealing with children after their own children have died."

One World Grannies, which consists of about 24 members, including a number from the Jewish community, likes its members to be active.

"We don't want people to play a passive role," says Manne. "We all want to try and do as much as possible."

Although One World Grannies has monthly meetings and is pursuing a number of methods of fundraising, including selling jewelry, Manne says most people don't know about Africa's situation.

"When I tell people I'm involved with this, they haven't heard of it. I think the main thing is to get some light focused on this," she says.

"Over the years, I've heard so much about the terrible things that go on in Africa," says Manne, who notes that her husband is from South Africa, where HIV/AIDS is at its worst. "I feel what's happening in Africa is the most terrible thing."

She explains that education for the children in Africa costs money most people don't have.

"Most of the grandmothers have no means to really support the grandchildren," she says. "As grandmothers, we can imagine how terrible that would be. Hearing about that, it just really hit home."



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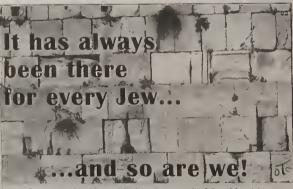
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Around the Jewish world

Ben-Eliezer warns Syria against war

(JTA) An Israeli Cabinet minister warned Syria against going to war to regain the Golan Heights. National Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said in a radio interview Israel has worked hard to convince Syria it seeks no renewed hostilities, but is also bracing for the worst.

"If, despite our efforts, Syria dares to launch a war, it will rue the day." Ben-Eliezer told Israel's Radius Radio, according to a transcript released by the station. Ben-Eliezer, a retired general and former defence minister, said any new confrontation on Israel's northern border would probably be with both Syrian forces and their Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah. But he added Israel's military, having been overhauled since last year's Lebanon war, could beat them both.

"This time the Israel Defense Forces will be so ready and so strong, and will conduct itself with such sophistication, that I hope both Assad and Nasrallah regret their decision," he said, referring to the leaders of Syria and Hezbollah.

The interview appeared to stray from the Olmert government's policy of avoiding any appearance of sabre-rattling against Syria.

Since the Lebanon war, Syrian President Bashar Assad has expressed interest in resuming peace talks with Jerusalem, but has also hinted he could resort to force to regain the Golan, which was lost to Israel in the 1967 Six Day War.

Ukraine rabbi blames state for anti-Semitic attacks

(JTA) One of Ukraine's chief rabbis wrote an open letter to the government and law enforcement agencies, accusing them of not doing enough to stop anti-Semitie attacks in a central Ukrainian city. The letter by Chabad's chief rabbi in the country, Azriel Chaikin, was in response to an August 16 incident in Zhitomir, a former shtetl. An unidentified man broke a window in the historic synagogue during afternoon prayers, and escaped before apprehension. Police are investigating, but no arrest has been made.

Jewish leaders in Zhitomir told JTA Jews have increasingly been targets of violence in the town, especially if they are visibly observant. Two years ago, Rabbi Shlomo Wilhelm, the city's Chabad rabbi, was verbally assaulted and beaten on one of the main streets. This July, Wilhelm was attacked again in the yard of his synagogue. The same day, a group of youths tried to break into a girls' dormitory at a Jewish school, hurling verbal insults at the students. Earlier this month, Nohum Tamarin, executive director of the city's branch of the Chabad-affiliated Federation of Jewish Communities, and his wife Broha Tamarina were attacked and severely beaten near the synagogue.

In his letter late last month, Chaiken blamed the authorities. He wrote officials "either don't have the desire or are incapable of preserving security," and the police "who have taken some steps to patrol the area near the synagogue, are unable to offer serious response to anti-Semitic gangs." Chaikin also wrote religiously observant Jews "feel that they are in danger" in the city.

The frequency of violent attacks on Jews is high in Ukraine. Few investigations lead to arrests or successful prosecutions.

Israeli crematorium torched

(JTA) Israel's only crematorium was torched. Unknown arsonists set fire to an outdoor oven belonging to Alei Shalehet, the only Israeli mortuary to offer cremation as an alternative to hurial

The attack took place hours after the crematorium's previously secret location, on farmland outside Tel Aviv, was published in a fervently Orthodox newspaper. Alei Shalehet's owner blamed religious zealots angered at the availability of cremation, which is against Jewish law, in Israel, Police had no immediate comment on the suspects.

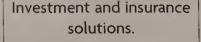
Hillel leadership seminar opens in Russia. Ukraine

(JTA) Hillel activists from across the former Soviet Union are meeting for leadership training. Roughly 400 activists and organizers

from 27 Hillel centres are meeting to discuss fundraising, public relations and how to attract new students to Hillel programs.

Hillel in the former Soviet Union is not a campus-based organization, but serves any young Jewish adult. Some activists in the region question whether a new campaign to beef up activity on college campuses will be successful.

In addition to these inhouse matters, there will be classes on Israel-Diaspora relations, the challenge of intermarriage and other issues of contemporary Jewish life.





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Netanyahu could be hurt by extremist image of party rival

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — After his overwhelming victory in the Likud's leadership primary, Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu might have felt well on the way to succeeding Ehud Olmert as prime minister. For months, he had been leading in polls for the premiership, and was now seemingly in control of his party.

But the strong showing of Moshe Feiglin, a radical right-wing rival for the party leadership, who won almost a quarter of the Likud vote, could seriously hurt the former prime minister's chances in the national arena.

The calculation is simple: To regain the premiership, Netanyahu needs to take votes from the centre of the political spectrum. But Feiglin's brash anti-Arab and anti-liberal stance could frighten the centrists away.

Netanyahu's strategy in the face of the "Feiglin problem" is two-pronged: He is seeking ways to eject Feiglin from the party or at least to sideline him and his extremist "Jewish Leadership" group; at the same time, he is trying to forge high-profile political alliances with moderates, like former finance minister Dan Meridor.



Moshe Feiglin, a radical rightwing activist who was defeated by Benjamin Netanyahu in the Likud primary.

(Source: Feighn's web site)
Whether the Likud is identified with Feiglin or with Meridor could make all the difference in the next

Netanyahu won the party ieadership election with 73.2 per cent of the vote, followed by Feiglin with 23.4 per cent and Danin Danon, chairman of world Likud with 3.4 per cent. In his victory speech, Netanyahu made it clear he saw the results as a stepping stone to the

"Tonight the internal contest is ended and, as of tomorrow, we will focus our efforts on bringing a new leadership to Israel," he declared.

But the fact one in every four Likud voters backed Feiglin means

the internal contest is far from over. If Feiglin is able to control a large segment of the party, the Likud will be forced much further to the right than Netanyahu would like. The end result would likely be a party with a radical right-wing image most Israelis would not be comfortable with and, more importantly, with a new internal balance of power, in which party leaders and Knesset hopefuls would have to deal with and in some cases defer to Feirlin and his extremist ideology.

"If people need Feiglin's votes to get into the Knesset, the Likud leadership will start speaking Feiglinish. And if it speaks Feiglinish, that will reduce Netanyahu's chances of being prime minister," wrote Nahum Barnea, senior political analyst for the mass circulation daily Yediot Achronot.

Feiglin burst onto the political

scene in the mid-1990s as one of the leaders of Zo Artzeinu, a protest group determined to block the Oslo peace process.

One of his tactics was to stage mass sit-downs on major Israeli highways, bringing traffic to a stop across the nation. He was arrested and convicted of sedition, for which he spent six months in jail. In 1998, after then-prime minister Netanyahu signed the Wye River agreements with the Palestinians, ostensibly continuing the Oslo process. Feiglin formed "Jewish Leadership," a radical ideological group that advocates holding on to all of the occupied territories and annexing them into the land of Israel, encouraging non-Jews to emigrate, denying Arabs the right to serve in Parliament, weakening the Supreme Court, pulling Israel out of the United Nations, establishing a leadership of religious believers and creating a "more Jewish" Israel.

Feiglin called it a profound expression of the Jewish spirit; his critics denounced it as a form of Jewish Fascism.

In 1999, Feiglin played his master-stroke: the movement's members, nearly all Orthodox settlers, joined the Likud en bloc. Aware an extremist movement of the type he led stood no chance on its own, Feiglin planned to take over a large established right-tending Israeli party from the inside. If successful, he argued, he could even become prime minister.

His progress has been rapid. In the 2002 leadership primary, he polled only 3 per cent of the party vote: in 2005, 13 per cent; and, now in 2007, more than 23 per cent. Many concerned Likudniks have likened Feiglin's activities in the party to a "hostile takeover."

Netanyahu is well aware of the danger. A few years ago, he was not averse to making deals with Feiglin to embarrass then-party leader Ariel Sharon. Now he is doing all he can to keep the right-wing radicals at arms length. During his victory speech, he gave orders to keep Feiglin and his supporters out of the hall.

Likud authorities have tried to clip Feiglin's wings in the past. In the run-up to the last Knesset election, they passed a regulation to prevent him from appearing on the party's Knesset slate. It stated that anyone who had spent time in jail in the past seven years could not run on the party ticket. Feiglin's jail

(Continued on page 25)

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Around the Jewish world

Abbas, Haniyeh tied in popularity poll

(JTA) Mahmoud Abbas and his top Hamas rival are equally popular among Palestinians, a survey found.

According to the Jerusalem Media & Communications Center poll released late August, if the Palestinian Authority were to hold presidential elections now, Abbas, the incumbent, would get 20.6 per cent of votes. Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader who was prime minister in the government Abbas dissolved after the June civil war in the Gaza Strip, would get 18.8 per cent of votes.

The survey, which had 1,199 respondents and a 3 per cent margin of error, suggested, despite Palestinian rancor over Hamas's violent takeover of Gaza, political sympathies remain evenly divided.

But in a possible boost for Abbas's Fatah faction, which is more moderate than Hamas, the poll found that 16.6 per cent of Palestinians would vote for Marwan Barghouti as president.

Barghouti, a charismatic Fatah lawmaker jailed for life by Israel for involvement in terrorist attacks, is widely touted as a successor to Abbas. Given Barghouti's continued calls for Palestinians to co-exist with the Jewish state, there has been mounting speculation that Israel could free him in a bid to undercut Hamas's hardline appeal.

Iraqi Jews must leave, liaison savs

(JTA) The handful of Jews remaining in Iraq should flee for their lives, a representative of the community said.

Andrew White, a Church of England clergyman who tends to religious minorities in Baghdad, said in an interview that the eight Jews remaining in the Iraqi capital face dire risks given seething sectarian violence and the fact they live outside the protected Green Zone.

"The time has come for them to flee," White told *The Jerusalem Post*, noting that the Jews' ethnicity is written in their passports "and that only adds to the danger."

Iraq's Jewish community was once the world's biggest, but was cut down by persecution and political upheavals. Around 100,000 Jews emigrated to Israel after its founding, yet White said the eight still in Iraq were not looking to the Jewish state.

"They have been fed anti-Israel propaganda all their lives," he said. "They do not trust Israel to be a good place. If some of them do want to go to Israel, they are scared of what the repercussions might be for the ones that stay."

Another asylum option touted for the fraqi Jews has been the Netherlands, where many of their compatriots live. White said Dutch authorities had not been responsive to the idea, something denied by the Foreign Ministry in The Hague.

Staff at London college oppose Israel boycott

(JTA) A survey found staff from Imperial College London overwhelmingly oppose an academic hoycott of Israel. The survey, conducted by the University and College Union, the union which proposed the boycott earlier this year, found that 82 per cent of Imperial College UCU members do not support a boycott of Israeli academic institutions, Imperial College is one of Britain's premier scientific and medical institutions, with over a dozen Nobel laureates in its 170-year history.

The survey also found that 90 per cent of the college's UCU members think there should be a national ballot of all members before UCU adopts any international boycott.

Michael McGarvey, a molecular virology instructor, said, "In conjunction with the very similar results from the recent ballots of members at the University of Oxford and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, this clearly demonstrates that the vast majority of ordinary members of UCU are against a boycott and the damaging effects that this could have on British Academia."

Moscow to get first Mitzvah Mobile

(JTA) Moscow will soon be receiving its first Chabad "Mitzvah Mobile," according to an August 20 report on the Chabad.org website. The large recreational vehicles — mobile Jewish educational and outreach centres for areas not serviced by Chabad Houses — are visible in cities all around the world, but this will be the first one in the Russian capital.

The first such vehicle took to the road in New York City in 1974, as a means of reaching secular Jews and introducing them to Lubavitcher-style Chassidism. Chabad hopes to have the vehicle up and running by the High Holidays to distribute Shabbat candles, teach small sections of the Torah and get Jewish men to don tefillin.

Pentagon pulls apocalyptic video game

(JTA) The Pentagon stopped delivery of a proselytizing videogame about the apocalypse after complaints led by a Jewish activist.

"Military Religious Freedom," headed by Mickey Weinstein, a Jewish former Air Force officer, had uncovered a plan hy Operation Straight Up, a group that targets U.S. troops for evangelism, to send the "Left Behind: Eternal Forces" game to troops stationed in the Middle East.

"It's a horrible game because in it you either kill or convert the other side," Weinstein said about the game, based on the hugely popular "Left Behind" novel and movie series.

The Pentagon has withdrawn its approval of Operation Straight Up's plans to distribute the game. Muslim groups also complained.

House: multi-functional, residence and office

(Continued from page 1) vations neared completion, ben-Reuven said research by last year's JSA student president Bohby Wollock had found that Ottawa's Jewish students have been asking for a house for 30 years.

And while it may have been three decades that Jewish students studying at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University (and now also Algonquin College) have waited for a Hillel House, the purchase, renovation and opening of the house all came together remarkably quickly.

A major donation, made spontaneously at the special symposium on the future of Ottawa's Jewish community in late February, paved the way for the purchase of a house. A search for a suitable location began quickly and the house on Laurier Avenue was found in April

JSA took possession of the building on May 1 and the renovations immediately began in order to have the building up and running for this new school year.

"We got it done right away," said ben-Reuven. 'We just had four weeks to

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do the masonry work."

And the renovations progressed quickly over the course of the summer.

The house is multi-functional and will serve as a residence for Jewish stusix students - and as the JSA office and central location for programming.

The cost of purchasing and renovating the house was about \$600,000 and the upkeep and maintenance as Carleton campuses. will be financed by the rent paid by the students who are now living there.

Room rentals begin at \$500 per month with yearlong leases, and the spaces quickly sold out The residents are balanced on several scores. There are three men and three women and three undergrads and three graduate students. And there's a balance of students from all three Ottawa campuses: three from the University of Ottawa, two from Carleton and one from Algonquin.

Among the six who have moved into their rooms is Carleton student Ariella Kimmel, the incoming citywide JSA president.

The monthly rent paid by each of the residents includes free laundry facilities, cable television and high speed Internet connections. In addition to their rooms, the six students living in the building also share kitchen facilities and a furnished common room with a big screen TV.

The Sandy Hill location of the house is exciting, said ben-Reuven

"It's a dynamic neighbourhood with many foreign embassies and historical buildings.

There are synagogues and the Rideau Bakery, with dents - there are rooms for its selection of kosher goods, nearby. The house is just steps away from the University of Ottawa campus and there's free shuttle bus scrvice that runs every half hour between the Ottawa and

With the ISA offices and much of the programming centralized in the new Hillel House ben-Reuven anticipates a steady stream of students using the facility and sees the house as an important "investment in the future of Ottawa's Jewish community."

The students who are now involved in JSA, and other students who will be brought into the Jewish community via JSA activities and programs, are "the future leaders of the community." Students, he added. "learn how to get involved" in the community through their participation in JSA.

ben-Reuven sees making connections between Ottawa's lewish students and the wider Jewish community as an important component of his job and to that end has worked to develop a supportive community board, headed by Linda Kerzner, which is actively involved in enhancing the connections between Jewish students on campus and the wider community.

Happy New Year to the Ottawa Jewish Community

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OMJS runs New Year's program



Ottawa Modern Jewish School students, teachers and parents model their new T-shirts. The school emphasizes the teaching of Modern Hebrew and contemporary Jewish issues without denying the links of the modern to the historical past. As part of its outreach initiative, the school will be running a Rosh Hashanah in the Aisle program at Loblaws College Square. Shoppers will learn about the holiday and taste some holiday treats. To learn more about the school visit www.omjs.ca.

Creative Connections connects seniors to new friendships



Creative Connections, a program of AJA 50+, begins its sixth year of providing stimulating programming and social connection for older seniors. Its fall session begins

September 16.

Creative Connections offers seniors a full day of activities, including cultural programming, exercise, topical discussions, music programs, guest lectures and more. It takes place every Tuesday at the Soloway JCC. Participants either bring or purchase their lunch and have a great time socializing together. It's a wonderful way to

make new friends and enjoy new experiences.

The cost is \$30 for a 10-week session. Assistance with transportation is available for those who require it. For more information about the program please call Annette Paquin at 613-526-2968

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New Year's Greetings to the Ottawa Jewish Community

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See page 40 for details on how to subscribe.

Award winner

University of Ottawa Professor Seymour Mayne, co-ordinator creative writing department of English and Vered Jewish Canadian studies program, recently received a Canadian Jewish Book Award for his latest book of poetry, September Rain (Mosaic Press).

This is the fourth Canadian Jewish Book Award Mayne has received.

The Canadian Jewish Book Awards celebrate excellence in Canadian writing that reflects Jewish concerns and themes.

The Modern Jewish Studies Annual writes "Although he has done valuable work as a critic, editor, anthologist and translator, Montrealborn Seymour Mayne is most distinctly a poet, more impressively in control of his medium with each succeeding volume of poetry."

A few of the poems from Professor Mayne's winning book are reprinted here with permission.



In Her Day

In her day my grandmother was a smart young beauty.

Little did she know then that she would outlive them all: czar, cossacks, bandits

and her younger intendedher hard-of-hearing but determined husband

whom she would outsmart as well

Pebbles

for Ben Hollander

However hewn the stones of Jerusalem, the fine pebbles of Camp Ramah reveal a more modest finish. Scraped smooth from the slow retreat of crushing glaciers,

they have learned the silence of long seasons endlessly repeating under the impassive

They have less to say, perhaps nothing at all: blood trickling into their veins of ore draws from expiring mosquitoesor from bloodroot

yielding its sanguine essence without pain, without the piercing shrapnel of speech.

Skeleton Lake, Muskoka

Derech Hebron

The chariots of weekday morning hurl down Derech Hebron-If Nebuchadnezzar were

his minions would not have a chance against the trucks and traffic! Engaged on the

to advance again

Jerusalem approaches

they would be halted by the sheer drive of numbers. Where is he now that rumble of Babylon when we can rout him back all the way past the Euphrates where the Persians await him

with the long last night of fire?

Vessels

As if scattered in celebration of God's domestic air, this show of confetti stills the festive tongue with silent wonder:

foolscap shredding sheet after sheet each torn flake flying then embedding like seed-

today's snow recycling feeds into yesterday's swollen solar pumpkin and next season's blueberry bush crowded with vessels of pungent wine.

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The Board of Directors, Faculty, and Administration of Hillel Academy of Ottawa Wish our Students, their Families, and the Entire Ottawa Jewish Community שנה טובה - Happy New Year



May this year bring only Blessing, Health, Peace and Success to our Community and to our Brothers and Sisters in Israel

Dr. Faye Goldman, President, Rabbi Dr. Jeremiah Unterman, Director of Education, Mrs. Sara Breiner, V.P Judaic Studies. Mrs. Wendy Waxman, V.P General/French Studies 613-722-0020 / www.hillelacademy.ca



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Israel, moderate Arab leaders agree to negotiate

(Continued from page 1)
Hamas forces crushed their
Fatah rivals, carrying out
summary executions, parading ill-clad captives and hurling rival milituamen from
rooftops.

The end result was Hamas in sole control of Gaza, but supplanted in government by a new Fatah-led administration under President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

The Abbas government was ensconced in the West Bank, operating from Ramallah in the name of all Palestinians and recognized by Israel and most of the international community Ironically, Fatah's defeat in Gaza made it possible for Israel to circiimvent the radicals and deal directly with the moderates in Ramallah.

Israel, the United States and the Arab moderates were quick to size up the peacemaking potential in the new situation. On June 25, just 10 days after the Hamas takeover in Gaza, the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and Israel

came together with moderate West. Bank Palestinians to launch a new Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative at a summit in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik.

Three weeks later, in a major policy statement, US President George Bush called for a regional peace parley, under American auspices, to be attended by Washington's moderate Middle Eastern allies.

In early August, US Secretary of State Condoleczza Rice visited the region to set up the peace meeting and make sure key players like the Saudis would participate. Rice repeated her insistence that Israel and the Palestinians deal with core issues – borders, refugees and Jerusalem – for a final peace

In the wake of her visit, Olmert and Abbas began a series of meetings designed to produce a framework for a final-status agreement to be presented at the regional meeting. Palestinian spokes-



In August 2007, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas began a series of meetings designed to produce a framework for a final status agreement. Olmert (left) and Abbas shake hands during a meeting in Petra, Jordan, on June 22, 2006. (Source: GPO/BP Images/JTA)

men, impressed by the show of American resolve, said for the first time in years they believed the establishment of a Palestinian state was possible. There were other reasons for optimism: former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a highly respected mediator, entered the arena, and Israel and moderate Arab states agreed to negotiate on the basis of a peace plan reaffirmed by the Arab League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March 2007.

But with Hamas in control in Gaza, there were questions as to how far Abbas could go in peacemaking with Israel. He also was under considerable Arab pressure to reconcile with Hamas, along the lines of a power-sharing agreement the two sides had reached in Mecca in February.

Moreover, as the United States stepped up its efforts to promote a more stable regional order, Iran and its radical allies moved to undermine it.

Iran smuggled rockets through Syria, earmarked for its Hezbollah proxy in Lebanon, replenishing stocks depleted in the fighting with Israel the previous summer. It also reportedly helped bankroll large weapons deals between Syria and Russia.

In mid-July, when Syrian President Bashar Assad again sounded peace overtures to Israel, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad flew to Damascus to make sure nothing would come of them. While in the Syrian capital, Ahmadinejad warned of a "hot summer" in which the enemies of Islam would be defeated.

Iran also trained and armed Hamas fighters, helping them overcome Fatah in Gaza. According to Israeli intelligence, the Iranian aim was to surround Israel with a missile cordon from Tehran to Gaza, primarily to deter any Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear weapons program.

To offset growing Iranian power, the United States planned huge arms supply packages to its moderate allies: \$20 billion in sales to Saudi Arabia over the coming decade; \$13 billion in military aid to Egypt; and \$30 billion to Israel.

Bush assured Olmert during a visit to Washington in June that the Saudi weapons would not be deployed close to the Israeli border and that the United States remained committed to maintaining Israel's technological edge.

Following the poor performance of its ground forces in the second Lebanon war, Israel decided on heavier military spending of its own. In late July, the government allocated an additional \$11 billion for the next 10 years, Some of it would be devoted to enhancing Israel's long-range strike capacity and some to enlarging the ground forces by two divisions.

The Israel Defense Forces' faiture to win a decisive victory in the war cost Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen Dan Halutz and Defense Minister Amir Peretz their jobs. Halutz, an air force man, was replaced in mid-February by Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, a seasoned infantry and armor commander. Peretz, after losing the leadership of the Labor Party to Barak in June, was ousted at defence by the former prime minister.

Throughout the year.
Olmert had been under fire
(Continued on page 17)

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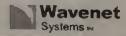
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Katsav resigns, succeeded by Peres

(Continued from page 16) for his widely perceived mis-

management of the campaign against Hezbollah. After the Winograd Commission, set up to investigate the war, added its harsh criticism in late April, his approval rating plummeted to less than 3 per cent and most pundits believed he would be forced to resign.

But Olmert displayed considerable political skill. In the report's immediate aftermath, he moved quickly inside his own Kadima Party to nip in the bud a potential leadership bid by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. Six months earlier, in October 2006, he had greatly strengthened his chances of political survival by bringing Avigdor Lieberman's far-right Yisrael Beiteinu Party into the governing coalition.

In the short-term, his inclusion of the experienced Barak as defence minister strengthened his hand still further. But Kadima colleagues warned Olmert that in Labor's Barak he was riding a tiger that would soon turn on him.

Olmert was not the only Israeli leader in trouble in 5767. Katsav was forced to resign his presidency in late June after being accused of sex offenses against several women who had worked with him. In January, Attor-



Protesters demonstrate outside Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's residence in Jerusalem, April 30, demanding he resign in light of the Winograd Report.

Mazuz indicated he had sufficient evidence to indict Katsav on rape charges against at least one of the I1 complainants.

But in June, Mazuz agreed to a plea bargain under which Katsav, who professed his innocence throughout, would confess to lesser charges and receive a six-month suspended sentence. The plea bargain sparked a wave of public protest and netitions to the High Court of Justice demanding Katsav be put on

As part of the plea barwith him. In January, Attor-ney General Menachem June 29, just two weeks

before his term was due to were rightly legislative and end. He was succeeded as president on July 15 by Shimon Peres, the 83-year-old former prime minister.

The unpopular plea bargain compounded the problems faced by the country's legal system, where the new justice minister, Daniel Friedmann, seemed to be waging a calculated campaign against the Supreme Court and its president, Dorit Beinisch.

Before his appointment in February, Friedmann had complained that the court had grown too "activist," and that its unelected members were encroaching on what

executive functions. His critics warned that in weakening the court. Friedmann would be undermining one of the most important pillars of Israeli democracy.

Lebanon war and the



24 news conference, had hotly denied sex allegations against him. (Source: Brian Hendler)

increased defence spending, to rise to the projected the Israeli economy per-formed extremely well over the past year. Growth remained robust at more than 4 per cent, compared to 5.1 per cent in 2006.

8.4 per cent, and the gross domestic product per capita was estimated at more than Despite the second \$20,000. Inflation, below zero in 2006, was expected

government figure of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent, although there were worrisome signs it might go higher.

Foreign investment was Unemployment was expected to grow by 8 per down to 7.8 per cent from cent to \$15.3 billion in 2007, and the Tel Aviv stock market, despite a major wobble in August, outperformed those of the rich Western industrial nations.



Songs of Jerusalem Sunday January 13, 2008 at 2pm Glebe Community Centre

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Sunday June 1, 2008 at 7pm Alumni Theatre, Carleton University

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Music is alive and well at Congregation Beth Shalom

Music has the power to unite, to move, to inspire. Under the able guidance of Cantor Daniel Benlolo, the Beth Shalom Neshama Choir, a mixed chorale ensemble of 20 strong, is working hard to perfect its High Holy Day repertoire in order to once again add beauty and solemnity to the service.

Today's Beth Shalom choir is following in the footsteps of a great musical legacy. Ninety-three yearold congregant Irving (Chick) Wolfe recalls being in the choir in 1926 under the leadership of Cantor Jacob Dorskind when the synagogue was

located at 417 Rideau Street. He Maynard Kreiger began singing describes the old synagogue where the women sat on the top floor, the himah was in the centre and the choir clustered around the cantor.

"I was a soprano in those days, a soloist with my friend Gilbert (Gedalva) Shore and the cantor was the best in the city. I really enjoyed it."

The 1973 Beth Shalom choir. under the direction of Cantor David Nemtsov, had as its soloist the bassist Al Shapiro. It counted among its members the late Laz Mirsky, father of one of today's current choir members. Ken Mirsky.

with the choir in 1979 and, to this day, still climbs the stairs of the bimah to add his deep baritone and playful harmonies to the mix along with another 1973 member. Leon Leckie.

Through the years, the choir has always been a mainstay of religious services at Beth Shalom, Under a series of talented cantorial leaders. the all-male choir continued to thrive. The addition of women to the choir in 2003 was a treat for both the congregation and the

"I just love to sing" says chorister Ethel Malek.

The sentiment is echoed by Edie Landau who maintains she sang in choirs all her life, "from the early days in Winningg at Rosh Pina Synagogue with the renowned Sarah

While the full choir performs during the High Holy Days, some of the members get together informally to join the cantor on the bimah for Friday night and Shabbat morning services. The atmosphere in the synagogue is haimish and is a great drawing card for younger new members like Evan Green.

Newcomer to Canada Paul Sheffrin says, "Almost from the moment I went up on the bimah, something magical happened. Cantor [Daniel] Benlolo exudes a musicality and clarity of diction that combine with the spirituality of the service to create something I can only describe as

And of course, Cantor Benlolo has great plans for the future of the

Beth Shalom Neshama Choir.

'We plan to become more active in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities and bring our ruach to hospitals and extended care facilities," he says.

He recalls the very successful Interfaith Concert held at Beth Shalom in 2005 and last year's trip to Montreal where they performed at a prestigious choral festival.

'It was great to bring music created from the heart and fashioned by emotion to a warm and appreciative audience."

A synagogue without a choir is like a motion picture without a score. If you want to be spiritually moved and inspired, come visit us downtown at Congregation Beth Shalom. We would love to sing just



Agudath Achim Congregation Boys Choir - 1928; (front row, left to right) Joe Zelikovitz, Jay Greenberg, Hyman Cohen, Issie Tudover, Joe Lieft, David Monson, Morris Lieff; (second row) Ed Sadinsky, Alex Wolfe, Gilbert Shore, Cantor Jacob Dorskind, Izzie Greenberg, Sam Shabinsky; (third row) Abe Zelikovitz, Irving (Chick) Wolfe, Reuben Witen, Mitchell Hyman; (fourth row) Abraham Lieff, Moses Doctor, Nathan Greenberg, Samuel Taylor; (back row) William Goldbium, Max Lieff, Frank Florence and Lazarus Cohen.



Congregation Beth Shalom Choir - 2007: (clockwise from left to right) with Cantor Daniel Benlolo are Edie Landau, Dora Goldman, Esther Shetzer, Allan Baker, Dr. John Kershman, Harvey Morin, Maynard Kriger, Joe Nadrich, Ken Mirsky, Evan Green, Leon Leckie, Paul Sheffrin, Dr. Irwin Kreisman, Mark Farovitch, Audrey Kreisman, Ethel Malek and Shirley Geller. Absent are Shelley Posen and Dr. Adam Sachs.





A Jewish life in Ottawa has many facets and takes us down many different roads. Our Jewish experiences begin the moment a child is born. Whether lighting a menorah as a Ganon preschooler, canoeing on the Ottawa River as a Camp B'nai Brith camper, or enjoying Shabbat at Hillel Lodge as a senior, living a Jewish life is all about connecting – connecting to Jewish experiences, to Jewish values, to Jewish traditions, to family and to community.



Live Generously.®





Your child's connection to Ottawa's Jewish community can begin the day he or she is born. Through the "Shalom Baby" program, new parents receive a basket of goodies filled with gifts for newborns and information about Jewish community resources.

Once your newborn moves beyond its first steps to explore its world, the Ganon Preschool is there to provide a safe and loving haven, where children aged two to five learn to socialize and begin to celebrate being Jewish.

The Soloway JCC's Shalom Baby outreach program received \$5,500 and the Ganon Preschool received \$7,763 from the Federation's 2007 Annual Campaign.

The formative years for your child may take him or her to Hillel Academy where a strong academic education is enhanced by a solid Jewish education that connects your child to his or her Jewish heritage. As the world around us becomes increasingly unsettled, it is crucial, now more than ever, that our children remain connected to our rich Jewish heritage. They are the future of your community.

Federation helps defray the high cost of being Jewish by subsidizing Jewish day schools. Ottawa day schools and supplementary schools received \$790,600 from the 2007 Annual Campaign.



Integral to a Jewish experience is our sense of obligation to help one another. After last summer's devastating war in Israel, which was fought in our community's partnership region, we wanted to send a message of support and love and ensure that the children in northern Israel returned to a comfortable and nurturing learning environment.

The Hanadiv Elementary School in Metulla received \$50,000 to build a new computer lab for students.



Say the word Camp Gesher in Ottawa circles and you'll see more than a few faces light up. Camp Gesher continues to play an important role in the life cycle of Ottawa's Jewish children of all ages. It is synonymous with fostering life-long relationships, ever-lasting memories and strengthening a Jewish connection. Camp Gesher needs our support if children of future generations are to experience the joys of summer camp.

Day and overnight summer camp scholarships totalled \$56,567 for the 2007 Annual Campaign.

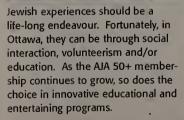


Your child's Jewish experience can be enriched through many special programs. Ottawa Torah Center's Living Legacy program provides educational and cultural hands-on programs to Jewish students throughout Ottawa. They are taught how to bake matzah, the significance of a luluv and etrog to Succot, and about the joys of Havdallah.

OTC's "Living Legacy" program received \$10,000 from the 2007 Annual Campaign.



As your child continues to grow, so must his or her options for continued Jewish experiences. Federation helps send Ottawa teens to Israel on birthright and to Eastern Europe on March of the Living. Life-altering experiences such as these – where teens come face-to-face with the tragic history of the Jewish people combined with the exhilaration of setting foot on Israeli soil, their homeland, for their first time – are experiences that help mould future Jewish leaders.



AJA 50+ received \$29,950 from the 2007 Annual Campaign.



"birthright" received \$30,000 and "March of the Living" \$10,000 from the 2007 Annual Campaign.

For some, the road travelled can be far more difficult. Thankfully, Jewish Family Services provides direct assistance to help secure shelter, put food on tables, pay hydro bills and buy winter clothes to keep children and families warm during the winter months.

The Federation's contribution to JFS's direct assistance program is \$203,722 for 2007.



Lee Waxman, a resident of Tamir since 1985, enjoys a full life. Lee has a strong sense of real belonging and attachment to the community-at-large and especially to the Jewish community in Ottawa. He is a long-time and much-loved member of Agudath Israel Congregation and a much-appreciated volunteer at Hillel Lodge. He thrives on his involvement in Tamir's Judaic Outreach program. Tamir provides our community's developmentally challenged with a brighter future.

The Annual Campaign has supported Tamir's Judaic Outreach Program for 2007 with \$40,000.

Even at the difficult juncture when we are older, ailing and in need of much more care and attention, our Jewish experiences should remain rich. With Federation's help, Hillel Lodge is able to offer residents enhanced care in nursing, a superior ratio of nursing staff to residents and a quality Kosher menu that allows all residents to enjoy what is nourishing, culturally familiar and pleasing to the palate.

Through its 2007 Annual Campaign, Federation has supported Hillel Lodge with \$75,000 for Kosher food, \$100,000 for enhanced nursing and \$25,000 for its feeding program.





Each year, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign pumps much-needed dollars into family services, the Soloway JCC, Jewish summer camps, educational opportunities at day schools, high schools, JSA Hillel and special programs and Jewish experiences.

The Federation is committed to ensuring that Jews living in Ottawa experience a meaningful Jewish life.

However, each year, our needs increase and the same money accomplishes less.

Your gift to the 2008 Annual Campaign will ensure that another generation of Jewish life thrives, guaranteeing a future for you, your children and your grandchildren.

Please Live Generously*. It does a world of good To donate on-line go to: www.jewishottawa.com or contact (613) 798-4696, ext. 232

Unique Holocaust play performed by Israeli theatre group

By Jason Sherriff

The lights dim and silence washes over the audience. A swelling of ticking clocks fills the small room. A quiet man sits at a small wooden table at the front of the room, fiddling with tools to fix the wristwatches strewn in front of him. The golden Star of David on his chest sits atop a number used to identify him, and immediately indicates the setting of *The Timekeepers*, an Israeli play about an unlikely friendship in the midst of the Holocaust.

Written by American-Israeli Dan Clancy, Ocean of Sugar's production of the play premiered in Tel Aviv in 2002. With stunning performances, fresh humour, and an unexpected ending, The Timekeepers is an intimate play about the friend-ship between two prisoners during their stay at the Saxenhausen concentration camp.

The play premiered in Ottawa on August 19 at the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama as part of the Capital Pride Festival, and centres on Benjamin, a conservative Jewish herologist played by Rami Barucb, and Hans, an extrovert homosexual played by Roy Horowitz. The pair, while first dis-



(From left to right) Rami Baruch, Kobi Livne and Roy Horowitz have grown close over four years of performing *The Timekeepers*. (OJB object, Jason Sherriff)

tanced from one another by their obvious differences, quickly discovers a common interest and unites to cope with the harassment they receive from the Kapo, played by Kobi Livne.

After a successful run at the Edmonton Fringe Festival last year, director Lee Gilat, who founded the independent theatre collective Ocean of Sugar in 1999, was happy to bring the play back to Canada.

Although she hesitates to choose her favourite play out of the productions she has directed, Gilat, 32, says *The Timekeepers* is a "great piece of theatre" uniquely combining humour with the Hologaust.

"The fact that the two characters have a sense of humour gives light to the human factor of the play," says Gilat. "It is not a big epic Holocaust drama, but a very small, personal drama."

The play is an intimate look at the different ways three individuals are victims of the Holocaust, and Gilat says, "It is a clever decision by the playwright, to see how this affects human nature, without seeing the actual villain of the story. Seeing only the victims, and seeing how each of them deals with this tracedy."

Another important aspect of the play, she says, is that it doesn't focus solely on the Jewish side of the Holocaust, but depicts it as a "more general catastrophe," showing how homosexuals and German prisoners were also victims.

"I sincerely hope people will see what I saw in this play, being a very humanistic piece of theatre," Gilat says, explaining the power of the play is in its intimacy.

"When I think about The Timekeepers, I can sense [what it was like] being there more than if I see something very big and dramatic. This small platform is something that I can actually relate to."

The playwright won two awards for *The Timekeepers*, and Ocean of Sugar has started to receive invitations to perform at schools. Performing the play is a joy, says Horowitz, because it is an

opportunity to "present Israel through its culture.

"It's a mission we take upon ourselves very happily," he says.

Baruch says he doesn't think they could have performed the play in Israel years ago.

"The survivors of the Holocaust can't laugh. It used to be holy, to touch our Holocaust. I think people are more open to new ideas now," he says, noting Yad Vashem now has a wall recognizing homosexuals in the Holocaust.

After the evening performance of the play, Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker spoke about the importance of bringing the play to a wide variety of audiences, and also said he enjoyed the way the play moved from "stillness and coldness to harmony and warmth.

"The Holocaust is still very much alive, still sensitive," Baker says, explaining the suffering of the Holocaust extends beyond the last generation. "It is something that touches all of us, and I'm pleased [the play] will be appearing in schools. It is outside the usual thing seen from Israel."

Ocean of Sugar will perform The Timekeepers in Victoria and in Vancouver this year.



Richler's St. Urbain's Horseman becomes a TV miniseries

By Michael Regenstreif

Mordecai Richler modelled Jake Hersh, the central character in St. Urbain's Horseman, on himself.

Like Richler, Jake was bom in the 1930s and grew up in Montreal's legendary Jewish neighbourhood surrounding St. Urbain Street.

While Richler became a novelist and essayist, Jake is a television director who works briefly at the CBC in Toronto before moving on to London and the BBC in the early-1960s. And like Richler in London at about the same time. Jake falls in love and marries the non-Jewish British woman who is the love of his life.

St. Urbain's Horseman, the 1971 winner of the Governor General's Award for fiction and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for best book, is a long and complex novel that tells the story of Jake's life; and of his obsession with the horseman, his cousin Joey, a mysterious figure who disappears from St. Urbain Street after a street



Selina Giles and David Julien Hirsh

French Canadian youths leaves one of the bullies critically injured.

As the years go by, with only occasional word from · criminals Joey on his travels, Jake imagines the horseman to be

fight with some anti-Semitic a heroic figure off defending the Jewish people on a grand scale: in Israel fending off Arab armies or in South America capturing Nazi war

> While Richler himself failed in his attempts to adapt



Elliott Gould and Rosemary Dunsmore

(Courtesy CBC)

St. Urhain's Horseman into a workable screenplay, veteran screen and television writers Gerald Wexler, Howard Wiseman and Joe Wiesenfeld managed to adapt the book into a four-hour miniseries by telling Jake's story chronologically - Richler's book weaved back and forth across the decades - and by concentrating on several key episodes from the novel.

The miniseries will air September 19 and 20 on CBC Television.

The \$7.4 million production, directed by Peter Moss and filmed in Montreal, captures the Richlerian worlds of Montreal in the early 1950s. Toronto later that decade and London in the '60s with authenticity.

David Julian Hirsh, best known as the lead in the Naked Josh television series on the Showcase channel. plays the adult Jake, while the younger Jake in Montreal is portrayed by Max Morrow. Other major cast members include Elliott Gould as Jake's rich Uncle Abe, Andrea Martin and Joel Miller as his mother and father, and Selina Giles as Nancy Croft, the woman he falls in love with. Jacob Tierney plays Joey, the horseman, with Liane Balaban and Rosemary Dunsmore as the horseman's sister and mother, Harry Stein, the creepy British bookkeeper whose sexual proclivities land Jake in trouble, is played by Michael Riley.

Watching the St. Urbain Street scenes of Jake's youth are a particular delight to anyone who remembers the Jewish Montreal of bygone years. We see authentic touches like Kik Cola posters, the outdoor winding staircases of the Mount Royal Plateau and Mile End sections of Montreal - so inappropriate to a city with a snowy and icy winter - and inside the local hangout modelled after Wilensky's, the lunch counter a block from St. Urbain Street, which remains virtually unchanged (except for the prices) to this

In these early scenes in the miniseries, we meet the teenaged Jake, his family and friends and see the roots of his fixation on his eousin

The acting of Andrea Martin as a stereotypical Jewish mother and Elliott Gould as the rich uncle who dominates the extended family's life are a particular treat to watch And something that will surely bring a quick smile to the face of anyone familiar with Richler's best known book (and film) is the brief presence of the adolescent Duddy Kravitz, seen at a young age predating his famous apprenticeship.

As the Montreal segments of Jake's youth draw to a close, the horseman disappears under cloudy circumstances and the story's locale briefly shifts to Toronto as Jake breaks into television work and he catches his first glimpse of Nancy, a beautiful British model with whom he's instantly smitten.

From Toronto, Jake moves to London and a job as a television director at the BBC. Here the love story with Nancy develops and he falls in with Stein. The strange friendship with Stein eventually leads to scandal and both men standing trial for a sex crime Stein commits in Jake's

As with most screen adaptations of long novels, much of the book has been stripped away from the television production in order to bring forward the central aspects of the story. The film is well cast, from the leads to the minor characters, with strong performances from all and the times and places in which the story unfolds are faithfully evoked in the sets and cos-

The original music Montreal jazz musician James Gelfand composed for St. Urbain's Horseman also evokes the film's locales and eras. The early scenes in Montreal's Jewish quarter are scored by klezmer music. Gelfand uses jazz for the soundtrack to the Toronto segment and British-style '60s rock and roll for the London scenes.

The four-hour miniseries will almost certainly be a highlight of the fall television schedule and a new trade paperback edition of St. Urbain's Horseman, with a cover photo of Hirsh as Jake and Giles as Nancy, is heing issued for those whose appetite for Richler's fulllength story is whetted by the

Wishing the Ottawa Jewish community a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year from the Board of Directors and Staff of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre שנה טובה Inspiring Jewish Journeys

Netanyahu will have to find a way to get free of Feiglin

(Continued from page 11)

term for his Zo Artzeinu activities ruled him

Now, Netanyahu is looking for legal grounds to expel Feiglin and the entire Jewish Leadership group. One possibility would be their support for Israeli soldiers refusing to evacuate settlers, which contradicts the Likud's blanket opposition to refusal, Another is the fact, in the last Knesset election, many of the Jewish Leadership people, although registered members of the Likud, did not vote Likud. In some predominantly Jewish Leadership settlements with well over 100 Likud members, only a handful actually voted for the party.

The Likud, badly hurt by Sharon's breakaway to form the centrist Kadima party in

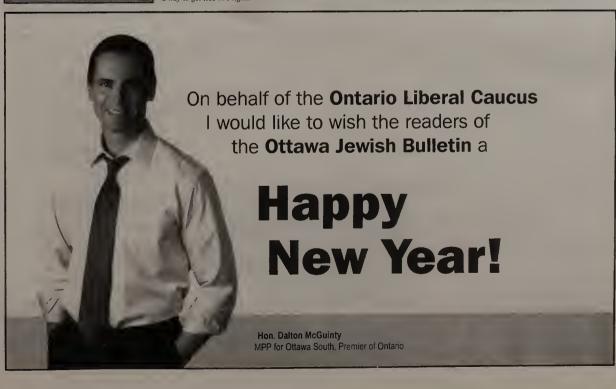
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November 2005, won only 12 Knesset seats in the March 2006 Knesset election. But a number of major developments that year restored the Likud's political fortunes: the rocket fire on nearby Israeli towns and villages following the withdrawal from Gaza, the eventual takeover of Gaza by Hamas and Olmert's poor performance in last summer's war with the Hezboilah in Lebanon. All three developments served to undermine Kadima and make Netanyahu the favourite to win the next election.

That is until Ehud Barak's election as Labor party leader in July and Feiglin's highprofile performance in the subsequent Likud vote. Where a few months ago polls had Netanyahu well ahead of any rival for prime minister, now he trails both Barak and Foreign Minister Tzippi Livni, should she take over from Olmert as Kadima leader. In a three-way race, a recent poll had Barak at 32 per cent, Netanyahu at 30 per cent and Olmert with just 5 per cent. But Jif Livni becomes the Kadima candidate, she polls 29 per cent, with Barak and Netanyahu both trailing at 24 per cent.

What these figures show is the vital importance of the centrist vote. And, if Netanyahu hopes to win his way back into the Prime Minster's Office, he will have to find a way to get free of Feiglin.





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Local Jewish actress, dramatist plans play about Emma Goldman

By Sharon Abron Drache

The 11th annual Ottawa Fringe Festival featured local actress and budding playwright, Tania Levy, in her solo production "The Opposite of Infinity" at Academic Hall.

Levy attended monides school from Kindergarten through Grade 4 and the Ottawa Modern Jewish School. Her parents Ted Levy (deceased) and Lynne Alsford were members of Young Israel of Ottawa

She is especially proud of her Ottawa Jewish heritage. Her maternal grandmother, Anne, was "a Mayberger and native Ottawan, who was born in Kemptville," she says.

As for her artistic side, Levy's mother is a published poet and her father and grandfather respectively played the bass guitar and violin. Levy's cousin, Arnie Mayberger, who now resides in Vancouver, played with his band, the Arniemay Combo for Elvis Presley when he appeared in Canada. Levy has a treasured photo of Cousin Arnie with his arm around Elvis.

Levy traces the roots of her acting career through high school improv at Bell High School to Natalie Stern's theatre school, to Ottawa University, where she received her degree in theatre arts (2002).

'Natalie was wonderful. She had an audition preparation class which got you



Tania Levy, proud of her Ottawa Jewish heritage

herself.

take-off on Pygmalion

(2004), in which Levy acted

the parts she had written for

In 2005, she created her

The Jewish Princess Diaries,

which toured summer fringe

festivals in Ottawa, Win-

nipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton,

"The Jewish Princess

Diaries is a spoof on the

preteen 2-volume princess

diaries. But it's also a take

on Bridget Jones. And I

have added a Jewish per-

spective. I play a civil ser-

Vancouver and Victoria.

solo production,

thinking about text work, performing differently, improvisation and character development," she says.

At Ottawa U, Levy teamed up with Patrick Gautier to form a company called Inside Jokers, which had gigs at Hartwell's at the Westin Hotel. Also, she and Gautier were hired by the Institution Comedy Club when it was housed on Merivale Road and later on Besserer Street.

In 2002, Levy co-founded Gruppo Rubato. The first show the company worked on was written by her. Entitled What Alice Found There, it focuses on Lewis Caroll's relationship with

Delving into the relationship of another author with his fictional material proved inspirational for her next Grupp Rubato production, a

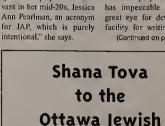
when her best friend has an enormous lewish wedding and asks Jessica to be maid of honour. The play was inspired in part by my late father's cousin's wedding with a 20-foot dessert table. Jessica seeks out Jewish men through unconventional venues like speed dating with hilarious outcomes." Levy's current fringe

offering, The Opposite of Infinity, is so theatre-like I wonder why it does not get booking as a solo show at the National Arts Centre. Her breaking down of the fourth wall as is traditionally done in fringe theatre productions is hardly visible.

Instead, the audience willingly suspends belief as she switches adeptly from acting both female and male roles in a romantic story about the reunion of two people who have loved one another since childhood. As adults, a successful philosopher and physicist, they meet at a university lecture only to discover their childhood devotion has blossomed as much as they have in the intervening years.

As a playwright Levy has impeccable timing, a great eye for detail and a facility for writing memo-

(Continued on page 27)



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Music appreciation series returns to Soloway JCC

By Maxine Miska

The Greenberg Families Library fall music appreciation lectures with Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer begins September 26 at the SJCC

For the ninth year of the series, Professor Van Vlasselaer will present "The History of The Symphony." He will explain the development of the symphonic over the course of six lectures

Van Vlasselaer is a professor of linguistics and special adviser to the vicepresident, research and international at Carleton University. He is also a noted music critic for the newspaper Le Droit and has written many cultural reviews and major articles for the Encyclopedia of Music of the XXth Century.

Van Vlasselaer regularly delivers pre-concert lectures at the National Arts Centre, in both English and French. He has received numerous decorations for his cultural involvement and is particularly recognized for his work on Holocaust-related matters.

The Music Appreciation Lectures will take place at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays in the SJCC Social Hall.

The eost for SJCC and

Greenberg Families Library members is \$55 per sixlecture series, \$12 per lecture; non-members \$75 per six-lecture series, \$15 per lecture. Tickets are available at the front desk of the

For more information. eall the Greenberg Families Library at 613-798-9818,



Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer

Music Appreciation

	Lecture Scriedule	
September 26	Introduction: From the concerto ripieno	
	to Haydn's symphonic outburst - the birth of a form	
October 3	The classical style: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven – about form and substance	
October 10	The romantic followers: from Schubert and Mendelssohr to Schumann and Brahms	
October 17	About romantic transformations: (Berlioz and Liszt) and national contents (Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Sibelius)	

October 24 Freeing the form: Bruckner and Mahler October 31 The 20th century symphonic tradition and the end of the symphonic form

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Playwright faces 'a lot of the same challenges'

rable dialogue. With her new play, Revolutionary Sweetheart, Levy is preparing for the leap from fringe to traditional theatre.

"The idea for the play was pitched to me by Dave Dawson, the artistic director for the Black Sheep Theatre. His company has done the Canadian fringe circuit

for a decade. Dave is enamoured with Emma Goldman because she was such a crazy, intense woman living in the 20th century, who was a Jewish feminist, pro birth control, pro free love. I bought her 2-volume autobiography, Living my Life. which was written in the 1936s, and I was hooked."

Dawson and Levy will

co-produce Revolutionary Sweetheart (i.e., they will both put up the cash). She will write and develop the script and also act in it. He

The three characters are contemporary Jewish journalist, Emma Goldman and Nora Helmer from Henrik Ibsen's, The Doll's House. For inspiration and relevancy, each woman filters through the others' lives. Three characters (past and present) are simultaneously evolving.

"I have discovered that 21st century. I face a lot of the same challenges Emma Goldman and Nora Helmer experienced. The Jewish female voice is not widely prevalent in plays written by contemporary Canadians, she says.

Embracing the challenge, Tania reminds me the remounts of The Jewish Princess Diaries are welcome as are bookings for her new play, Revolutionary





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Active year planned for AJA 50+ members

By Estelle Melzer

Active Jewish Adults (AJA 50+) kicks off its 2007-08 program year with its Registration and Membership Renewal Day on Wednesday, September 5 at the SJCC. Program and memhership registration will

take place from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be a special program free for all members at 1:00 pm, entitled "The ABCs of Fraud." which will teach you how to protect yourself from the scan artists who target seniors.

This fall, AJA 50+ marks

Happy New Year

to the

Ottawa Jewish community

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its eighth year of providing stimulating, social, cultural, recreational, health and educational programming at an affordable price for the growing 50+ Jewish population of Ottawa.

Beginning as a small grass roots initiative responding to a need in the community, it has grown into an organization of more than 500 members. It is an invaluable source of connection and stimulation for many people in our community and the only organization in our community advocating for Jewish seniors.

"AJA 50+ is different things for different people," explains Elaine Wolfish, incoming co-president with Sonja Kesten. "Demographically, we span two generations. Many of our members are active, vital people in their 50s and 60s who now



AJA 50+ members enjoy a walk and lecture on the geological features of Ottawa.

have more leisure time and are interested in exploring new skills, friendships and activities.

sion of interesting legal cases, tours of the Experimental Farm, Rideau Hall and Heritage Ottawa, and

"We also serve a very important function for older seniors, providing socialization, stimulation and connection. The unique thing about our organization is that it is volunteer driven and run, and programming evolves from the interests of our very talented members."

Programs this fall include: vegetarian cooking, kosher sushi-making, financial planning seminars, lectures on allergies and on the Jewish artists of Montreal, art gallery talks, an Ikebana demonstration, bridge lessons and workshops, art classes, music appreciation, Spanish lessons, digital photography classes, a discus-

sion of interesting legal cases, tours of the Experimental Farm, Rideau Hall and Heritage Ottawa, and more. As well, there are ongoing weekly interest groups such as Current Events, Drop-in Bridge and Mah Jongg, Jews in Music and Saturday Matinees on Thursday.

drun, and programming obves from the interests of very talented members."

Programs this fall clude: vegetarian cooking, ming at the SJCC each Tues-

day in 10-week blocks.

Special events on the fall calendar are a Bridge and Mah Jongg Fundraiser on October 31, sponsored by the Hyman Soloway Family, and a VIP Brunch on November 18 featuring Ellen Wright, senior CIDA adviser for the Afghanistan Task Force.

AJA 50+ has also launched a computer club with the aid of a Federal New Horizons grant, which enabled it to buy four state-of-the-art computers. Members are teaching and coaching other members in basic computer skills.

"One of the key priorities for AJA 50+ is to keep our programming affordable and accessible to everyone in the community who wants to participate," explains copresident Sonja Kesten.

Membership is still only \$30 a year and subsidies are available for those who require them.

For more information about AJA 50+ please attend the Registration and Membership Renewal Day on September 5 and bring a friend



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Course probes Jews' spiritual relationship with the land of Israel

politics and geography of Israel, but few have explored the soul of the land. This fall. the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute is set to unveil an intriguing new course at over 250 affiliates across the

Unlike other courses concerned primarily with the modern State of Israel or its ancient history, The Land and The Spirit focuses on the mystery of the deep bond so many people feel for the land

"Many people love their homes and their countries, but once they relocate, that love begins to fade," explains Rabbi Menachem M. Blum

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Many have explored the who will be teaching the course at SICC "Yet, no matter where they have lived lews have continued to dream about the land of Israel. The Land and The Spirit looks to answer why that dream has persisted across borders and generations."

The Land and The Spirit provides students with an explanation for the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. The course explains what it means for a land to be holy, and the implications this has for the people living within that land. The Land and The Spirit also explores the relationship Jews in the Diaspora maintain with Israel despite their place of

"Whatever their political bent, people all across the have an opinion about Israel, whether positive or negative," says the rabbi. "Whether people feel hope or despair, pride or concern, people care about Israel. By probing the spiritual connection Jews have with the Holy Land, we hope our students will come away with appreciation for why Israel matters so much to them."

This exciting new course will be offered at the Soloway JCC for six Tuesdays, starting October 28. The course costs \$90, which includes a beautiful student

"We are so sure that peo-

ple will enjoy it," says Rabbi Blum, "that we invite anyone interested to attend the first lesson free, with no obligation. Just let us know that you're coming and we'll have a seat for you.'

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs, now offered in more than 300 locations in more than 250 cities nationwide, as well as international locations (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Holland, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Venezuela). In Ottawa, 140 students attended JLI courses at the SJCC last year and its popularity has grown over the last five years.

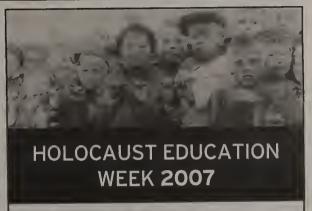
"JLI courses cover a variety of topics," explains Rabbi Blum. "The commitment is only for six weeks for one evening each week. If students have to miss a class, they either take it at another JLI chapter wherever they are travelling or they can get the recording so that they're up to date for the next lesson.'

The Land and The Spirit is co-sponsored locally by Ottawa Torah Center, the Embassy of Israel and the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

For reservations and upto-the-minute information about The Land and The Spirit, visit www.myJLI.com or call 613-823-0866.



Happy New Year to the Ottawa Jewish Community



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Barbara Coloroso is an internationally recognized speaker and author in the areas of parenting, teaching, nonviolent conflict resolution and reconciliatory justice. In her latest book Extraordinary Evil; A Brief History of Genocide, she has turned her attention to the subject of genocide: what it means, where it begins and where it must end.

A program of the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of Ottawa.

For further details on this and other Holocaust Education Week programs, please log on to: www.jewishottawa.com or contact: Dawn Paterson (613) 798-4696 ext. 236 or dpaterson@jewishottawa.com

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Torah High offers credit courses for Jewish public school students

The 52 students who attended Torah High this past year all agree: it has become the place to be for Jewish teenagers in Ottawa.

"Torah High is an amazing experience" says Lindsay Sheinfeld, a Grade 10 student at John McCrae High School, who had never attended any Jewish school before Torah High. "It's often hard to find time in our busy lives to learn about and discover our heritage. Torah High gives us the opportunity to do this in a manner that is not stressful. The people are great, the friendships made are lasting. It's a worthwhile experience."

Torah High offers high school credits to Jewish teenagers who attend public high schools in Ottawa. It welcomes all Jewish public high school students. No prior Jewish education or knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Courses are available after school and during the evening and include university preparation courses for students in Grades 10-12 and an open course for Grade 9 students

The Mitzyah Action Corp. course teaches students about mitzvahs. Then the students perform them in the community. Mitzvah projects this past year included the Ottawa Mission the Ottawa Food Bank, Tamir, Hillel Lodge, Christie Lake Kids, Mitzyah Day the Walkathon, the Yom Ha'Shoah Ceremony on Parliament Hill and a project for the kidnapped Israeli soldiers at the Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celehration at the Civic Centre.

We all get to hang out after school, eat some food and talk about things we wouldn't normally get to talk about involving Judaism,"



Torah High students wearing their Torah High hoodies at the Winter Leadership Retreat at Calabogie Peaks Resort (from left to right): Jenny Srour, Evie Cohen, Alisa Lazear, Julia Kozinska and Melany Chaiguin.

says Danielle Klein, a Grade mitzvah. Not only do we get 9 student at Sir Robert Borden High School. "Once a month, we go out and do a

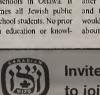
all our required [volunteer] hours, but it's also a lot of

For credit courses, students are required to attend a once-a-week two-hour class and need to complete an additional 35 hours out-ofclass through a variety of educational options, such as a weekend convention in places like New York City and Washington. This past February, Torah High ran a Winter Leadership Retreat at the luxurious Calabogie Peaks Resort, which included skiing, snowboarding and snowtubing, as well as fun educational programs. The educational components of

Yhoy consoles and a Jooshall table. Students from other schools travel to Torah High by taxi. To make the program accessible, tuition and transportation are free. As an added incentive, all students who register for Torah High will be entered to win a brand new iPhone

Torah High also offers high school credits in the summer on trips to Israel. One Ottawa Torah High student obtained a Jewish studies credit on the NCSY, "The Jerusalem Journey" Israel summer program, and two Torah High students obtained English credits on "Shakespeare in Jerusalem," in which they studied English for half of the day and toured for the other half.

Torah High is a project of NCSY Ottawa and is funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and private donations. For more information or to register, visit www.TorahHigh.ca or contact Bram Bregman at 613-262-6279 or bram@ncsv ottawa.com.



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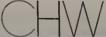
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Jewish bereavement group to begin in October

Cherun, MSW RSW

approach, we tend to take stock of the past year, think about how to become a better person and make plans for the holidays. While for most it is a time of looking forward to being together with loved ones, this happy reality is not true for everyone.

For some, the approaching holidays bring apprehension, sadness, and overwhelming feelings of loss because a much loved someone will not be there to celebrate with them

While the loss of a spouse, parent, sibling or child is particularly profound, it is true we begin to experience loss from the moment we are born. Very little remains the same in a person's lifetime and every change brings with it a loss, even when it also brings benefit.

Dealing with loss, even when the loss is natural and timely, is difficult and often

someone we love, the loss is As the Yom Tovim most painful. A life which once felt full, predictable and safe can begin to seem empty, menacing and bleak.

The death of someone close to us demands that we redefine who we are and often learn new roles and responsibilities when we are most vulnerable and least prepared to do so.

Coping with the loss of a dear one is made all the more difficult by the fact our society does not teach us how to grieve. In his book, Still Here Ron Dass states "in a culture that emphasizes stoicism and forward movement in which time is deemed 'of the essence' and there is little tolerance for slowness, inwardness, and melancholy, grieving - a healthy, necessary aspect of life - is often overlooked."

The bereaved person is too often left feeling inadequate, misunderstood and terribly lonely; with the result that he or she must

alone, often with expectations of well-meaning friends and family that they move on.

Jewish Family Services counsellors see gricving as a necessary stage for one to come to terms with the past and live again more fully in the present. Exploring the loss with the guidance and support of professionals, and are on the same journey, is a very helpful way for people to take the first steps toward repairing their world.

Last year, JFS offered a Jewish Bereavement Support group for the first time. Particinants found comfort in asking questions in a setting where acceptance and patience were the context process was explored.

Again this year, the group will be co-facilitated in a workshop format by Maxine Kossy, a teacher and counsellor. The group will meet once a week, beginning in mid-October, for eight weeks, looking at a different aspect of grieving at each meeting.

ning of the group. It is suggested people not apply within three months of the loss of the loved one. The cost of the eight sessions is \$100 with a sliding scale available

For further information or to indicate interest in registering, call me at 613-722-2225 ext 301 or e-mail me Screening interviews will at mcherun@jfsottawa.com.

Florence Melton School forms partnership with Agudath Israel and Temple Israel

Bu Maxine Miska

The Florence Melton School of Ottawa will hold classes this year at Agudath Israel and Temple Israel with Rabbi Steven Garten and Rabbi Charles Popky serving as faculty.

The partnership is an effort to provide SJCC programming in other sites in the community and to benefit from the expertise of congregational rabbis in adult Jewish education. Classes will be held on Wednesday nights 7:15-9:30 at Agudath Israel and Thursday mornings 9:30-11:45 at Temple Israel from

October through June.
The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Ottawa is part of an international network of schools seeking to inspire, enlighten and challenge adult learners from all segments of the Jewish community to study Judaism seriously and comprehensively. There are more than 60. schools in the United States. Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia with more than 15,000 adult student graduates worldwide.

A project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Melton School offers adult learners a serious, two-year program of study. Graduates receive a Certificate in Jewish Studies from the university. The classes employ a curriculum, developed by educa-tors from the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which surveys the basic components of Jewish literacy and knowledge. The courses explore the essential years ago and has graduated ideas and reasons underlying Jewish holidays and practices, central beliefs and concepts, important moments in history and contemporary ethical issues.

The Ottawa Melton School was established four

more than 100 students. Many have continued in graduate courses that cover a wide range of topics including Israeli Literature, the History of Zionism, Judaism and Psychology, Maimonides and Jewish spirituality.



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The blowing of the shofar and the call to end domestic violence

By Sarah Caspi

Although the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is a Torah decree, there is an allusion in it as well. It says: "Be roused, sleepers, from your sleep, and slumberers, take from your slumber; search your deeds and return in teshuvah ..." Mishnah Torah, Laws of Teshuvah, 3:4

Rosh Hashanab and Yom Kippur are a time for deep spiritual reflection and a time for a personal inventory. The prayers, reflection and desire for teshuvah (return, repentance), the objective during the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, call us to action. On Rosh Hasbanah, we need to wake up and be honest and objective about our lives: who we are, where we've been and in which direction we're headed.

"The Teruah sound - nine quick blasts in short succession - resembles an alarm

clock, arousing us from our spiritual slumber. The shofar brings clarity, alertness and focus." (www.aish.com)

Throughout history, the Jewish community has been fighting injustice towards its own people and to others who suffer. But, when it comes to offer childcare while she domestic violence in the Jewish community, have we been silent? Do we still believe Jewish women are too strong to be abused? Do we still believe all Jewish men are gentle? Do we believe it doesn't happen in our community?

Let the shofar's call be a call to action on the issue of domestic violence in our community. This Succot, several local rabbis, including Rabbi Reuven Bulka, will speak about domestic violence on Shabbat Succot. This tradition of using the holiday of Succot to focus on the issue of domestic violence started in San Francisco and many communities are now adopting it.

The role of clergy is vital in informing and supporting the efforts to end domestic violence. Clergy of all denominations provide a vital link in the support chain.

They are often the first people approached, and the more informed a clergy person is, the more they will be able to recognize the signs of abuse and be able to provide support in a meaningful way.

All members of the community need to be able to help in some way. Some steps you can take if you suspect a neighbour, friend or family member is in an abusive relationship include:

· Speak to her about it by expressing your concern and assuring her you can help. If you are unsure about what to do, see resource information helow

· Encourage her not to confront her partner if she is planning to leave. Her safety must be protected.

· If there are children, seeks help.

· Encourage her to speak to a professional who can work with her to ensure the safety of herself and her chil-

If you are concerned you may be in an abusive relationship, speak to someone you trust: a friend, a family member, a rabbi, a counsellor at Jewish Family Services or another professional.

Prevention of domestic violence is an important part of ensuring we all have healthy relationships. Raising our sons to be strong, supportive, Icving partners is one vital step. Jackson Katz, a public educator, addresses these issues in his book The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help." For further information, go to his website at www.jacksonkatz.com.

Together we can make our community safe and healthy. a community of Shalom

Shalom Bayit is a program of Jewish Family Services. It seeks to inform, educate. provide resources and raise awareness about family violence in the Jewish community. Shalom Bayit provides confidential counselling.

Sarah Caspi is the coordinator of Shalom Bayit. For further information, please call 613-722-2225 and ask for Sarah.

Happy New Year to the Ottawa Jewish cammunity

Diane Holmes

Ottawa City Cauncillar Dione.Holmes@ottawo.ca





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Media savvy rabbi to be guest speaker at JFS AGM

By Rena Herman, JFS

Rabbi Irwin Kula will be the guest speaker at the Jewish Family Services AGM on October 16, 2007 at 1255 Carling, 3rd floor.

Rabbi Kula is considered one of the great Jewish thinkers of our time. He has inspired thousands of people using Jewish wisdom in a way that speaks to modern life. His topic will be on solutions to the alienation and assimilation plaguing North American Jewry.

Rabbi Kula is the president of CLAL, The National Jewish Centre for Leadership and Learning, a leadership training institute, think tank and resource centre. He has authored numerous books, including Yearnings: Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life (Hyperion, September 2006), winner of a "Books for a Better Life Award."

He is a prominent Jewish voice within the media, appears frequently on CNN and Fox news, has been a repeat guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show and is a popu-

lar guest on PBS's Frontline. Rabbi Kula is also the host of a new 13-part public television series Simple Wisdom. The series uses Jewish wisdom to explore life issues including identity. spirituality, family, love, sex, money and work.

The rabbi teaches us that separating the spiritual from the practical is misguided. Rather, the values and principles that sustain us, the awareness that informs us and the purposes that inspire us are expressed not only in our spiritual moods, but in how we work and spend our money and participate in civic affairs



Great Jewish thinker Rabbi Irwin Kula's philosophies provide a broad vision of religious pluralism.

phies provide a broad vision day, October 9, 2007. of religious pluralism, honouring tradition through such contemporary channels as work, volunteerism and philanthropy as a form of spiritual practice.

He does not see wealth and power as spiritually neutral. He says that how we acquire and use these are opportunities for expressing our deepest spirituality, and wealth and power are blessings that enable us to act to create a better world.

In addition to Rabbi Kula's keynote address, the evening will include the presentation of the Elaine Rabin Social Service Award to David Freeman, and the installation of the Board of Directors

To attend, please RSVP

Richard Patten, MPP Ottawa Centre

411 Roosevelt Ave., Suite 204 Ottawa, ON K2A 3X9

FAX: (613) 722-6703 rpatten.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org



Rabbi Kula's philoso- to 613-722-2225 by Tues-

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF OTTAWA**

Jewish Family Services of Ottawa, an Accredited Family Service Agency, is seeking a social worker for our Student Support program to work on site at an orthodox elementary school under the supervision of the Co-ordinator of the program. The JFS Student Support program provides culturally sensitive counselling and consultative services to Jewish Day Schools in Ottawa on a contractual basis.

Initial working hours will be one half-day a week. Hours may increase as the program evolves. Position to start in September.

Prerequisites

- · Masters of Social Work and registration through Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers
- · Good knowledge of orthodox Jewish culture
- · Experience in school social work setting
- · Experience in working with complex family situations and systems
- · Experience in collaborative, cognitive-behavioural approach to social work practice
- · Experience with small groups
- · Understanding of play therapy with children.
- · Strong organizational and computer skills.
- · Ability to work independently, in consultation with supervisor
- · Able to function in a team environment with non-social work professionals

Please forward résumés to:

Marlene Goldfarb Cherun, MSW RSW Assistant Director Jewish Family Services of Ottawa 2255 Carling Avenue Suite 301 Ottawa, ON K2B 7Z5

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Max Smolkin celebrates a very special birthday

Nyman Engel

His vision isn't so good and his hearing has waned but Max Smolkin's mind is sharp, his sense of humour keen, his zest for life infectious. That's a mighty impressive roster for a fellow teetering on the brink of his 100th birthday.

The remarkable Max Smolkin will turn 100 years old on January 16, 2008. But, since it's easier to get family and friends together in summertime, his children Rosalie, Robert and David decided to mark their father's major milestone on the the ranks to 100-plus well-

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"Dad comes from a family of eight children whose children have formed a Cousins' Club. We're about 70 strong," says Rosalie Kane. "We've been meeting intermittently on the August weekend at the family summer compound at Rideau Ferry. This year was the perfect opportunity to invite extended family and friends to join us on Sunday for a 100th birthday celebration lunch'

Sunday, August 5 dawned bright and beautiful as additional invited guests swelled

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wishers. The guests came from as far away as San Francisco, as close as Amprior, and myriad points in between to toast the Smolkin family patriarch

A huge tent was erected on the lawn and celebrants sporting 'Max 100' hats dug into the fare with gusto.

There were speeches, music. reminiscences. laughter, tears and hugs and kisses all around. It was a love-in and the guest of honour was in his glory.

Maxwell Joseph Smolkin, the oldest of the eight children of Jacob (John) Smolkin and Ann Ginsburg, was born in Ottawa. His siblings Robert, Ben, Moe, Sam, Rose, Esther and Sally have all passed away.

"Only the good die young," he says.

Max remembers when Ottawa's Jewish population was centred around Murray, Clarence and York Streets. The family lived on the 200 block of Murray Street, moved to 370 Clarence and then to 155 Clarence

staircases and Mother would chase us all around," he smiles

He attended George Street Public School and remembers going to cheder in the old Murray Street Synagogue where he was taught by Messrs. Lieff, Zelikovitz and Slonemsky.

"The Jewish people got along and stayed together," he says.

In 1925 when Max was in third year at Lisgar Collegiate, his parents sold their dual-staircase home to the Rivers family and moved to Almonte where Max went on to complete his high school education.

"Living in Almonte made it easier for my father," he explains. "Father was a drover. He bought cattle from the farmers, shipped them to the Montreal livestock markets every week, went there to sell them and the next week started all over again. He was also in the raw fur business

"For a time, my mother

That last house had two and I maintained a dry goods store. We didn't make enough to buy porridge but, luckily, father was a good earner

'We put our roots down in Almonte and eventually we had to leave on Sundays. to escape the visitors," he laughs. "My mother knew every Jewish person in every small town in the Ottawa Valley, and there were quite a few."

In 1932, Max bought a retail business in Arnprior.

"My parents knew of a man named Hillel Greenberg from Montreal who had bought an old store in Arnprior, operated it for one day

brother was the president of Bruck's Silks in Montreal, I went to meet him at the Montreal Montefiore Club to discuss buying the store and I remember I was very impressed with all the important names I met there.

"t opened my men's wear store, M.J. Smolkin, during the Depression years and made it through because I was young and didn't understand that I was broke," he says. "The suppliers trusted me and t was honest."

On December 29, 1936, Max married Pearl Wiseman, of Smiths Falls.

(Continued on page 38)



YITZHAK RABIN HIGH SCHOOL

We celebrate the achievements of the graduating class of 2007!

We would like to congratulate our graduating class, and compliment them on their outstanding achievements. Our graduates were accepted to all the universities of their choice, and received over \$240,000 in university scholarships.

Special kudos to Jackie Huberman who was the recipient of the Millenium Foundation Scholarship. Jackie is one of only 240 people in Canada who has received this special award.

We salute Ben Shusterman who will be joining the Israel Delence Forces. Ben Joins other YRHS graduates, Lial Ben Choreen, David Wollock and Barak Davis, who are presently serving in the Israeli military. As a school that prides itself on its connection with the state of Israel, and our special relationship with the embassy of Israel in Ottawa, we are very proud of those who have joined the Israeli military defending our beloved Israel.

Over the years a large number of our graduates have taken post high school studies at some of the top schools in Israel. This year, we wish Leah Schweitzer well in her studies at Oarkei Bina seminary in Jerusalem.



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bottom left to right: Ziv Birhan, Myriam Auclair. Alexa Yegendori, Leah Scwheitzer, Melanie Kleinplatz, Naomi Scwhartz, Jackie Huberman top left to right: Daniel Friedman, Michael Sleicner



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Shana Tova!

Rabbi Yehuda Simes receives the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award

By Audrey Kaplan Rabbi Yehuda Simes is the

Rabbi Yehuda Simes is the 2007 Ottawa winner of the The Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence.

The rabbi is one of the 76 recipients from more than 45 communities across the United States and Canada that have been selected for the award this year. Nominees are from diverse backgrounds and denominations. covering teaching experience in day schools, high schools, yeshivot, Hebrew and community schools. These educators bring the love of Judaism and Israel into the classroom and into the lives of the children they

Rabbi Simes teaches Judaic studies to Grades 5 to at Hillel Academy and Grades 10 to 11 at Torah High. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Rabbi Simes attended yeshiva in Israel and then in Queens, New York. Choosing Jewish education as a career was an outgrowth of three motivations - a love of children and natural ability to relate to them; a love for learning as a venue for expressing his talents and creativity; and a passion for Jewish continuity and respect for education as a value in

Rabbi Dr. Jeremiah Unterman, director of education, Hillel Academy, credits



Rabbi Yehuda Simes

Rabbi Simes with creating an excellent curriculum in Jewish Life Cycle as an elective for Grades 7 and 8.

"This outstanding course is extremely popular among the students and conveys the significance of a Jewishly committed life in an unparalleled fashion to the students," says Rabbi Unterman. "He really turns them on Jewishly."

In September 2006, Rabbi Simes began to work with Bram Bregman, director, NCSY (National Conference of Synagogue Youth) at Torah High – the free afternoon and evening school for Jewish public high school students in Ottawa

Rabbi Simes appreciates the close connections he makes with his students as they graduate from Hillel Academy. As educational director at Torah High, he is able to continue and grow this link, "nurturing and shaping the lives of my students in an educational setting beyond elementary school."

Bregman is pleased Rabbi Simes is working with Torah

"We knew Rabbi Simes would be the right choice to be our director of education as he brings with him years of experience in curriculum development and innovative teaching techniques, as well as a contagious positive attitude," he says.

The rabbi will receive a \$1,000 (Cdn) cash prize from the Jewish Federation and a \$1,500 (US) stipend for professional development from the Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Life Network.

An expenses-paid invitation is extended to all winners to attend the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in November, in Nashville, Tennessee.

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October 24 and 25, 2007

A Celebration of Jewish Studies in Ottawa 8:30 a.m. (24) 9 a.m. (25) Rooms 154 and 156



A colloquium organized by Library and Archives Ceneda, the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (Carleton University) and the Vered Jewish Cenadian Studies Progrem (University of Ottewa).

Scholars from Canada, the United Stales and Israel will present papers in diverse fields, among them medieval Jewish philosophy, Holocaust art, historical and contemporary Canadian Jewish Studies.

In English and French

Choir helps integrate developmentally disabled within community

A few years ago, it was merely a fun part of the Tamir Judaic Outreach program. Today, the Tamir Choir, consisting of nine members, each developmentally disabled, has blossomed into an acclaimed group of performers with 'electric" enthusiasm.

Directed by Judaic adviser Cantor Daniel Benlolo and Judaic supervisor Leah Smith, the Tamir Choir came together in 2002 as a way for musically inclined individuals to express themselves.

"For some of them, being in the choir is a very core, central part of their lives and their connection in the community," says Benlolo,

The choir consists of Debby Applebaum, Meredith Caplan, Edith Garman, Chris Halstead Shirley Harris. Jason Kershman, Julie Mintz and Claire and Murray

"It's an honour to be part of the choir," says Applebaum, "because I enjoy singing and always have."

With 13 years of experience playing guitar, Applebaum says her biggest dream would be to perform at Centrepointe Theatre in front of the Israeli ambassador. "I [love] performing in front of people that appreciate my singing. I enjoy what I'm doing and hope that they

Being included in community events is important to choir members.

sense of belonging and inclusion," says Benlolo.

Before the choir was formed, Smith was leading some sing - and play - along sessions for people who enjoy creating music. "What we wanted to do then is offer something for people who are more musically inclined and able," she says.

The choir started out doing small events with Tamir, such as Chanukah parties and Seders. They slowly began moving into the community, performing at Hillel Lodge, doing bigger events and "integrating into mainstream Jewish life." which is an important function of the choir, says Smith.

As the choir's repertoire became more intense, including liturgical and Israeli selections, Broadway musicals and popular songs, it branched out into the general community.

Some of the recent events the choir has performed at include World Religion Day at Ottawa City Hall, Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal and a trip to Boca Raton, Florida to sing at an annual gala dinner.

"In Montreal, we had a standing ovation. Every time the choir sings, people in the audience are going to be teary-eyed," says the cantor.

'It's not put on, it's not polished. When life is authentic, it's always moving," says



The Tamir Choir performs at Ottawa City Hall on World Religion Day.

One of the reasons the choir is so successful. Benlolo says, is due to the group's enthusiasm, which comes out during every performance.

When I speak to a person that has developmental disabilities. I get the real person. I get the real answers and I get the real feelings of that person," he says. "When you see them singing together. that's what comes out, the real love of the song. That's why they get the standing ovation.

While the choir, which sings in Hebrew, Yiddish and English, has had many successes, it has had to overcome a number of obstacles.

"It takes more time for a person with developmental disabilities to capture the essence of some songs, the words, the articulation," says Benlolo, "but they've come a

long way." He also admits there is sometimes friction between choir members, but that, he says, happens in

every choir. Another difficulty the choir has faced, apart from learning lyrics, memorizing songs and harmonizing, is learning to grow and develop as performers.

To see that it's not just about the enjoyment [but also] that they could actually

improve their skills and develop as a more professional choir. I think that's an ongoing challenge," says Smith.

This challenge is common for most choirs, says Benlolo. "When you want to move it to the next level, it can be a very anxious moment for a lot of people."

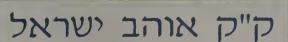
The choir's main goal is to make a difference in the lives of the participants.
"To have the participants

point of their lives is an achievement within itself," says Benlolo.

The biggest problem the choir faces remains having its members excluded in the community. "We still battle with this problem today," says Benlolo, "and you still see a lot of people that don't accept people with developmental disabilities. By doing what we're doing, we're giving the people with developmental disabilities the chance to be included, and we're giving a chance to the community-atlarge to [see] what they're capable of doing. It's a huge challenge, and I think it's going to take time."

By planning to have the Tamir Choir sing at hospitals and extended care facilities. Benlolo says they are showing that people with developmental disabilities can contribute to society.

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Max Smolkin: charming, energetic and 'young at heart'

(Continued from page 34)

"I fell in love with Pearl from a picture I saw on her aunt's piano when I used to drive two of my sisters to Smiths Falls to meet the Wiseman boys for dates," he says.



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The couple were married in Montreal at the home of another of Pearl's aunts and left for a Florida honeymoon with \$300.

"We drove to Florida in an old car that kept breaking down," he smiles. "We landed on Washington Street, had a five-course meal for 65 cents and stayed in the Clay Hotel for \$14 a week. On the way back, we stopped in New York City and shopped at Macy's for house stuff. All on \$300."

In later years, the Smolkins owned a place of their own in Florida.

The newlyweds rented a 'nice little house' in Arnprior for \$20 a month and settled down. In 1940, they purchased a home.

"We had carpenters in there for six months fixing it up," says Max. "In those years carpenters got 50 cents an hour."

The Smolkins lived in that home until 1982, when Max sold the business and they moved to Ottawa.



Max Smolkin and his great-grandchildren enjoy his centennial party at the family summer compound, Rideau Ferry.

The three Smolkin children were raised and educated in Arnprior. Throughout the years, the parents ferried their offspring to and from Ottawa for Jewish education – both boys had Bar Mitzvahs at Agudath Israel Synagogue – and made a point of attending Jewish affairs and family simchas, whether close by or far-flung.

In Arnprior, Max served on the town council and the school board for many years. He was also president of the Arnprior Golf Club, the Amprior Curling Club, and founding president and member of the Amprior Lions Club. In addition, he and Pearl established scholarship funds at the elementary and high schools. In 1988, in recognition of their contribution to Amprior, the town named Smolkin Street in their honour.

Max and his beloved Pearl lived in their Ottawa condominium apartment until she passed away in 2004. He continues to live there with his companion/driver Tony. In his 100th year, Max still takes long walks, enjoys a late afternoon schnapps and makes time to volunteer at Hillel Lodge.

"I talk to some of the older people there," he says. The 'older' people are often 20 years his junior.

In honour of his 100th year, Max has established the Max and Pearl Srnolkin Family Fund within the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation. He plans to direct the interest to the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society, of which he is a long-time member, and to Hillel Lodge.

A couple of days before the party, Max was struggling to remember the lyrics to the song Young at Heart.

"Dad says he feels young at heart," says Rosalie.

Max Smolkin is indeed young at heart. He is adored by his three children, their spouses, his nine grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren, and charms absolutely everyone who crosses his path.



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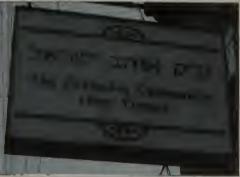
Downtown synagogue plans to reach out to the needy

Ohev Yisroel, the only Orthodox synagogue in downtown Ottawa, is approaching its fifth anniversary and third year at 516 Rideau Street, in Sandy Hill.

Previously, services were held in a private home and in a Sandy Hill apartment building.

Many Ottawans will recall the opening ceremony when Rabbi Yonah Burr of the Kollel affixed a mezuzah on the doorpost. And many remember the day, just before Rosh Hashanah in 2004, when the Jews of Ottawa marched through Sandy Hill and along Rideau Street to bring the newly acquired Sefer Torah home.

Uplifting religious services, followed by a congregational kiddush, are offered on Shabbat, Yom Tov and holidays in an open, friendly and heimische atmosphere. Lay members lead the services and



Ohev Yisroel services are held at 516 Rideau Street.

everyone, regardless of background or affiliation, is invited to participate in whatever way they can.

Upcoming High Holiday services will be led by Meir Rabkin of

Montreal. No one is turned away due to lack of funds.

Ohev Yisroel started with a handful of families committed to orthodoxy and now has about 25 member families who try to promote the shul motto "ahavas Yisroel" - love of fellow lews

Many of the 2,000 Jewish people living within walking distance of the shul are unaffiliated. Some are elderly and are not very mobile. Others are students and young professionals who identify with their Jewish heritage but who might need an intimate and welcoming community with which to reconnect

Shul members are not outreach professionals, yet the shul has still succeeded in touching some of these souls in recent years. But it needs to do more

This fall, Ohev Yisroel will offer subsidized daily hot kosher meat lunches for students and others in need to eat and mingle.

The synagogue is looking for sponsors for the meals and funds to hire a resource person to reach out

to the neglected and develop programs to help them preserve their Jewish heritage, whatever their background, level of commitment or affiliation

Ohev Yisroel is a small congregation looking to grow with members and ideas. It is planning to start a daily morning minyan. If you would like to help develop new ideas for programs (shiyurim, religious services, approaching the elderly or recent arrivals to Sandy Hill, or to help run the daily hot kosher meal program for students), or if you need a place to pray on the High Holidays, call the shul president, Heshel Teitelbaum at 613-565-6194)

There are also many existing holy items in the shul remaining to be dedicated in memory of your loved ones. Ohev Yisroel is a registered Canadian charity

AJA 50+ Bridge and Mah Jongg fundraiser to be held October 31

By Cynthia Nyman Engel

Does your heart race at the mention of 'three no trump'? Do your eyes light up at the thud of tiles on a mah jongg table? Then you're in for an afternoon of fun and games at the Annual AJA 50+ Bridge and Mah Jongg Fundraiser.

The 2007 event takes place on will be used to fund AJA 50+ Wednesday, October 31, 11:30 am, at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue. The cost, \$36 per person, includes a catered lunch, afternoon of bridge or mah jongg and prizes.

The money raised at this event

"We're very grateful to the Hyman Soloway Family, who generously agreed to sponsor the 2007 event," says Chair Sandra Levinson. To guarantee your seat at a table, please register no later than October 24. We had a tremendous turnout last year. We're expecting the room will fill up quickly this year too and we'd hate to disappoint anyone."

Bridge players can choose to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge under the direction of Liz Schwartz or contract bridge under the watchful eye of contract director Sylvia Monson

Both bridge and mah jongg players may register with or without a partner or make up a complete table.

For further information or to arrange a table, please contact Sandra Levinson at 613-729-2224.

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BBI President Moshe Smith meets United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

BBI president meets world leaders, advocates for Israel and human rights

The last time we checked in with Ottawa's Moishe Smith, the newly installed president of B'nai Brith International, he had just returned from a personal audience with the Pope.

In the seven months since, the globe-trotting head of the world's oldest Jewish human rights, community action and humanitarian organization has added an impressive list of world leaders to his meeting agenda - US President George Bush, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Archbishop of New York Cardinal Egan and Dr. Tabare Vazquez, president of

In May, Smith joined 50 other leaders from major Jewish organizations for a meeting with President Bush to discuss the Middle East and other pressing issues. The private, unpublicized 45-minute meeting also included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and US Presidential Advisor Karl Rove.

"It was a frank and open discussion on issues that are germane to the Jewish community," says Smith.

Following the president's opening address and a formal roundtable discussion, Bush and Rice spent an additional 20 minutes mingling with the delegates.

"I was a bit surprised that we had the opportunity to have an interaction in a very friendly, walk around conversational arena," says Smith. "It wasn't staged. There was no photo op. It was a substantive, interactive discussion."

Smith thanked Secretary Rice for her stern censure of Venezuelan President Chavez.

"I sent a letter after to thank her," he says, "but it was a wonderful opportunity to thank her personally for her firm stand on the limit of free press in Venezuela and what appears to be the limiting of general human rights and freedoms for the population.'

Smith spoke privately with President Bush, whom he describes as "very engaging, very warm - a reg-

ular guy."
His impression of Condi Rice: She is quite reserved, very bright. very impressive."

Smith has travelled extensively in Israel, South America, Europe and the US, but is especially passionate about Latin America. He has been travelling there since his early days in B'nai Brith Canada 20 years ago.

"The Latinos are very warm, activist, generous people," Smith says. "For me it's a particular interest to ensure that our community there is strong, that the Jewish voice is heard and that the governments understand that the Jewish community is an active and supportive when it comes to issues surround-

At the end of July, he visited Uruguay and Paraguay with a group of BBI officials. They met with Uruguayan President Dr. Tabare Vazquez and other senior govern-(Continued on page 42)

Section



Jewtopia creators Sam Wolfson (left) and Bryan Fogel

Jewtopia creators to kick off 2008 **Annual Campaign**

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa kicks off Campaign 2008 on September 28 at Centrepointe Theatre with an evening featuring Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson, the actorwriters who created Jewtopia, the wildly successful spoof about two friends, one a Jew on track to assimilation, the other a gentile who wants to find a Jewish wife so he'll never have to make decisions

As Wolfson explained in a phone conversation with The Bulletin, the show he and Fogel have taken on the road and are bringing to Ottawa is called World of Jewtopia. While it includes scenes from Jewtopia, Wolfson describes it as "a whole new show we've created from scratch" to perform at events like Jewish federation fundraisers.

Along with scenes from the play, World of Jewtopia is a multi-media event that includes lots of stand-up comedy, bits adapted from their book, Jewtopia: The Chosen Book for the Chosen People, and a question-and-answer session with the

Time Out New York described

it's comedic chicken soup," while Broadway.com said it's "a heck of a lot funnier than Jackie Mason."

The evening will also feature a presentation by Alina Gerlovin Spaulding on her family's rescue from the former Soviet Union.

Like thousands of others who have dreamed of making it big in Hollywood, Fogel and Wolfson struggled for years trying to catch a break; any kind of break. They did late night sets at local comedy clubs whenever they could get on stage and worked at odd jobs to pay their rent. Wolfson was a gopher - go for this, go for that - on the Jeff Foxworthy TV show, while Fogel looked for laughs using props like a plastic alligator.

When their breaks didn't come, Fogel and Wolfson decided to make their own. They took a 10-minute comedy sketch they wrote for a theatre festival and expanded it into Jewtopia, a two-hour play. The pair financed the first production by maxing out their credit cards and borrowing money from their

(Continued on page 42)



Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service, holds a Darfuri infant during a recent mission to Chad.
(Source: Ruth Messinger)

AJWS to push US on Sudanese refugee issue

(JTA) The American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is putting together a targeted advocacy campaign to push the United States to develop a policy on accepting refugees from the genocide in the Sudan.

"It's not fair to these small countries in the Middle East and in North Africa to ask them to take in all of these refugees," AJWS Executive Director Ruth Messinger told JTA.

"There should be a worldwide effort. If there was a proportionate response from elsewhere in the world, each country would end up with refugees to absorb."

Though there are no exact numbers on how many people are seeking refuge from Sudan, it is estimated three million people have heen displaced from their homes since fighting began in 2003.

Rough numbers suggest two million of them are still in Sudan and a half-million are outside the country. Around a

quarter-million may be in Chad and the majority of the remainder are spread around North Africa and the Middle East, including Israel.

Israel has taken heat recently for its decision to turn away refugees from Sudan. Israel has taken in nearly 2,800 Africans who entered the country illegally through Egypt in the past couple of years, according to the Jerusalem Post. Some 1,200 of them are from Sudan.

Israel agreed to keep 500 Muslim refugees from Darfur, but decided it will no longer accept refugees. Messinger would not judge the move but said she understood Israel's predicament.

Messinger just returned from a mission to Sudan and Chad with the group Dream for Darfur, which is trying to put pressure on China, host of the 2008 Olympics, to stop its economic involvement with Sudan

Jewtopia: 'a dream come true'

(Continued from page 41)

With Fogel and Wolfson in the starring roles, Jewtopia opened in Los Angeles in 2003 and ran for a record-breaking 16 months. Then Jewtopia conquered New York where it became the longest-running comedy in off-Broadway history. Productions soon followed in Chicago and Florida. To date, more than 400,000 people have seen the play.

A Toronto production, starring Dave Kerr and Matt Baram, will open on September 27 and there are also productions in the works for Israel, Australia, England and France.

The lead characters in Jewtopia are childhood friends Chris O'Connell and Adam Lipschitz. Years later, as adults, the pair runs into each other at a Jewish singles event. O'Connell, wanting help in bis quest to find a Jewish mate, quickly recruits his friend to provide inside information on Jewish life and to teach him how to be stereotypically Jewish. What follows is an edgy, but ultimately affectionate, send-up of Jewish family life, religious choices and the datine scene.

As with many satires, some performances have alienated a few sensitive play-goers with some of its over-the-top ribald humour and descriptions of dating disasters. While an occasional person has walked out of *Iewtopia* before the curtain has closed, most audiences have responded with standing ovaWolfson describes Jewtopia's success as "a dream come true" for himself and Fogel. He also pointed out the play's obvious appeal for Jewish audiences.

"When Jews come and see Jewtopia, they see their family."

But while Wolfson and Fogel may have anticipated the way Jewish audiences have responded to Jewtopia, the play's crossover success with general audiences was more of surprise.

Wolfson compared the non-Jewish response to Jewtopia to the non-Greek response to Nia Vardalos' My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Both provide an ethnically specific look into universal issues.

"I didn't necessarily get all the jokes," Wolfson said referring to the material in My Big Fat Greek Wedding that was specifically aimed at Greek audiences, "but 1 saw my family in it."

Similarly, while there's material in *Jewtopia* that is specifically aimed at the Jewish funny bone, there's enough in it to provide a good time to general audiences.

After the play's initial success, Fogel and Wolfson collaborated on a humour book, Jewtopia: The Chosen Book for the Chosen People, a send-up of Jewish history, life and stereotypes and the duo will be doing a book signing at the Centrepointe Theatre after their performance.

While new productions of *Jew-* Kickoff are available *topia* are continuing to open in var- 613-798-4696, ext. 241.

ious locales, Wolfson and Fogel are turning their attention to the movie version, tentatively titled "O'Connell and Lipschitz Lose their Religion."

They've completed the screenplay and Wolfson said shooting will begin in October.

In her presentation, Alina Spaulding will recount the inspiring story of her family's fall from grace in the Soviet Union, their rescue from the Soviet Union by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and their successful transition to life in America.

Spaulding, who was born in November 1973, was just three months old when her family suddenly lost its privileged status in the Soviet Union when her father, an Olympic hopeful for the Soviet ski team, broke his leg in a skiing accident.

Within hours of the accident, even before her father had been removed from the mountain, Soviet officials were evicting the family from their apartment and not even bothering to provide the medical care her father so desperately needed in the wake of his accident.

Spaulding – who works as director of admissions at a Jewish high school in Greensboro, NC – and her busband are now the adoptive parents of a pair of Jewish sisters they rescued from Moldova.

Tickets (\$18) for the Campaign Kickoff are available by calling

BBI: protecting human rights through lobbying and diplomacy

(Continued from page 41)

ment officials as well as with leaders of the Jewish community, the Israeli ambassador and the US ambassador to Uruguay.

In Paraguay, the BBI delegation participated in discussions relating to anti-discrimination legislation that is being proposed by the government. The BBI concern here is for human rights in general not just Jewish rights.

"The goal is to try to end up with a law that doesn't leave anybody out," Smith explains. "We know from an historical perspective that when Jewish rights are protected, the rights of the community are protected."

So far, Smith's experience as BBI president is exceeding his expectations, and much of that results from the work the organization does delivering services to the

community. "Our ability to do work on the ground in countries around the world is astonishing," he says with pride.

He offers as examples two programs in Latin America: a B'nai Brith partnership with the non-profit relief organization Brother's Brother Foundation which, in the past seven years, has delivered \$50 million in medical supplies to Latin American communities Paraguay, a small group of B'nai Brith members (150 of a total Jewish population of about 900), work with the Women's Affairs Ministry to assist single mothers in becoming self-sufficient, by supplying equipment like sewing machines and providing training in their use

When he meets with the world's heads of state and religious leaders, Smith has one predominant goal — to advocate for Israel.

"For me, it is rewarding to try to change some of the minds, to get people to think in a broader perspective, to not look at Israel as different," he says. "Trying to get representatives of governments to understand that Israel is a fellow democracy is very fulfilling."

Has he been successful?

"In the diplomatic world sometimes success comes in inches," Smith explains. "Sometimes for us a big victory is to get a country to ahstain from a vote as opposed to voting against Israel."

It's not all lobbying, speechmaking and diplomacy for the BBI president. In August, at the Alpha Epsilon Pi 94th Anniversary Convention, Smith was made an honourary brother of the Jewish fraternity.

Maybe he'll find the time for a keg party!



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Finn, Moscoe receive Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards

By Jason Sherriff

Two teenage members of the Ottawa Jewish community have been recognized for their contribution to Ottawa. Adam Moscoe, 15, and Davina Finn, 17, received this year's Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards.

The awards are part of Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa's annual event to celebrate excellence in Ottawa residents under the age of 20. The \$1,000 award, sponsored by CIBC, is divided into seven categories ranging from academic perseverance to personal courage.

Moscoe's dedication and his ideas for educating Ottawa youth earned him the entrepreneurship award.

Finn's natural desire to give and devote herself to charity earned her the philanthropy award.

Moscoe's volunteer work focuses on educating and caring for youth and children. A devoted counsellor at Dovercourt Recreational Centre and named Ottawa's best babysitter last year by A-Channel, Moscoe believes children are the way of the future and wants to give something back to the Jewish community of Ottawa.

"I want to empower youth through other youth," says Moscoe, who is currently working on a Jewish educational program, Israel Month, with the Embassy of Israel and Chapters Bookstores.

Israel Month would seek to bring together all ages "under a common goal of doing programs that aim for peace and education and especially for helping people," vounger says Moscoe.



Davina Finn



Adam Moscoe (Photos: Adam Scottie)

One of the ways Moscoe hopes to accomplish this unity is by weaving his musical and dramatic passions into the program.

"Drama has a huge potential to bring youth of different cultures together through role-playing in an emotionally safe ensemble."

Moscoe believes the key to keeping Judaism alive in today's youth is to have learning experiences together and to be involved with others." other religions and cultures without being assimilated.

He refuses to sit idly by. "I want to actually do something that in the end I can look back and say,

'Wow, I really did that!' I

want to really leave a mark, and I want to leave that mark on the lewish community.

Finn, who has had the giving spirit since she was six and donated her holiday gifts to the less fortunate, says she was brought up in a philanthropic family.

"My parents have always been really giving," she says, "and inspired me to give what I have. I feel better knowing i'm helping

Finn has contributed to a number of community events, such as directing the Canterbury Arts Festival and producing the Children's Theatre Festival. She has also given her time to a

number of charities, such as raising money for Bruce House and the Brick by Brick campaign, which raises money to build schools in Sierra Leone

Finn also braved cutting off 12 inches of her hair to donate to Angel Hair for Kids, an organization that makes wigs for children who have lost their hair.

Her most "rewarding and memorable" experience. however, was her three years working with United Way.

"It required a huge time commitment," she says, "but it was great to be part of such a powerful organization that's doing such great things in Ottawa."

During the awards cere-

mony, Finn had the opportunity to hear from a number of youth who are contributing to the community.

"It was inspiring to hear all of the different stories," she says, "and [we] were all under 20."

Finn will begin studying science this fall at Queen's University. She hopes to go to medical school.

Although she is moving away from Ottawa, she plans to open a United Way vouth chapter in Kingston to continue the work she has

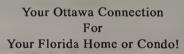
"This is not something new," she says of her desire to help others, "It has been part of my life since I was

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Hillel Lodge Auxiliary to host tea October 28

to enhancing the quality of life for the people who live at Hillel Lodge through a variety of outreach programs.

An energetic group of volunteers under the capable leadership of Naomi Cracower, the Auxiliary celebrates holidays such as Succot, Chanukah and Purim at Hillel Lodge.

Auxiliary volunteers can be spotted serving a wonderful breakfast on Mother's Day and Father's Day, and they provide little gifts to all the residents for these occasions.

Stephen Schneiderman, executive director of Hillel Lodge, states unequivocally, "This is the best Auxiliary in the province."

This year, the Auxiliary will be hosting its annual tea on October 28. The tea has become a much-anticipated social event for residents as well as for family and friends, and allows members of the community the opportunity to express their affection for the people in Hillel Lodge. This year's theme is "L'Dor v'Dor," from generation to generation.

Inez Zelikovitz, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday and is renowned for her generosity, will be honoured at the tea.

By Marion Silver Please show your support when you are The Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge is dedicated approached by a Hillel Lodge volunteer because this is the Auxiliary's one and only fundraiser and all monies raised are turned over to the benefit of Hillel Lodge.

Did you know there is a terrific gift shop in Hillel Lodge? From jewelry to Judaïca to that perfect little present, it is all there and very competitively priced. Be it for simcha season or a little treat for yourself or your home, you will find it at the Hillel Lodge Gift Shoppe. The shop is an initiative of the Auxiliary and all profits are used for the well-being of our elderly.

The Auxiliary is always looking for new members. Meetings are held only once a month, but not during the winter. The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 5. Please consider joining this enthusiastic team of volunteers.

The reward of volunteering is the wonderful feeling conveyed in the smiles of the residents who themselves have contributed so greatly to our community.

For more information, please call Naomi Cracower at 613-820-0420 or Hillel Lodge at 613-723-3900



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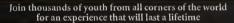


As one of the new leader shaping American spirituality, Kula provides a broad vision of religious pluralism, honouring tradition through such contemporary channels as work, volunteerism, and philanthropy as forms of spiritual practice.



Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 9, 2007 to (613) 722-2225

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Shana Tova to the Ottawa Jewish Community



a Happy New Year

Rosh Hashanah message from Canadian Jewish Congress

'No greater threat to Jewish life in Canada than our own indifference'

By Sylvain Abitbol and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, CJC co-presidents

It is in the fall, when Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are upon us, that the people of our community undertake serious reflection on the year that has passed and consider the challenges and opportunities in the year to come.

As the new co-presidents of Canadian Jewish Congress, we look back with respect on the achievements of our predecessors, and we look forward to doing our part to strengthen Jewish life in Canada.

The last year has included many significant achievements for the Jewish community: continued and further strengthened relations with Canada's First Nations people, significant successes in bringing perpetrators of hate to justice, a strong voice urging action to eliminate the suffering of the people of Darfur, seeking justice and dignity for Holocaust survivors, and challenging and confronting the menace of Islamo-fascism in all its guises, to name but a few. These achievements reflect our community's engagement on matters of human rights and social justice, with the hope of leaving the world better than how we inherited it from those who came before us.

We are blessed to live in a country where the rule of law is paramount, and where Canadian values are reflected in people from many faiths, ethnicities and cultures living together in relative harmony. At the same time, we cannot take that harmony for granted. We have all seen or heard about incidents of anti-Semi-



Rabbi Reuven Bulka

tism in our streets and on the Internet, dangerous statements from regimes demonizing Israel and incendiary verbal and written attacks by representatives of fringe communities whose views are contrary to Canadian and Jewish values

Jewish values. For some people, attacks of this kind spur vigilant awareness of those around them, leading them to work to counteract the batred, perhaps by building relationships with people from communities outside their own in an effort to develop trust and understanding. Unfortunately, for many others, coming face to face with hatred and enmity leads to a sense of defeat and apathy, which can devastate a community

As Jews, we have learned the hard way that silence in the face of adversity is not an option. While we watch our brothers and sisters in Israel with trepidation and pride as they defend our Jewish state, we must realize that we, too, have a sacred trust – each of us must uphold Jewish honour in the Diaspora. We do so by becoming involved with amcha.



Sylvain Abitbol

We Jews are a small family, but we are joined by our common history and our love of both Canada and our spiritual home, Eretz Yisrael. We owe it to future generations to ensure both are strong, free and fiercely independent.

As we enter the High Holy Day season, we must commit to working for community now. We cannot put it off for another time. There is no greater threat to Jewish life in Canada than our own indifference. That is why we urge all of you to maintain an unflinching commitment to

community. Stay informed, stay involved, and encourage those around you to help ensure Canada remains a country with uncompromising values, with no room for bigotry, hate or intolerance and plenty of room to achieve great things together.

Anti-Semitism has never been, and will never be, merely an isolated hatred. It is a blight that reaches beyond the Jewish community and acts as a precursor to a more massive hate that explodes onto society as a whole, spreading in all directions. An attack of anti-Semitism directed at the Jewish community is, for all intents and purposes, aniatack on everything Canadians hold precious and dear.

Canadian Jewish Congress stands on guard for the Jewish community and, by so doing, stands on guard for Canada in an effort to stamp out this insidious hatred.

We fervently wish members of the Jewish community a peaceful New Year and continued prosperity to Canada and to our beloved

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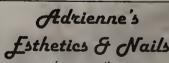


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Rosh Hashanah message from UIA Federations Canada

UIAFC helps Israel recover from Lebanon war

By Barbara Farber, president

The High Holiday period is a time of reflection and renewal, a time to think about

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the accomplishments and challenges of the past year and a time to look forward to new involvements and opportunities.

During the past year, we at United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) were consumed with concern for Israel's recovery from the war with Lebanon. Together, we raised and allocated funds and today, we are engaged in the implementation of the services and projects that are designed to help the north rebuild and heal.

We continue to be concerned about the ongoing situation in Sderot and we are active in providing support for the children and families who suffer these difficulties on a daily basis.

We hope and pray for peaceful times in Israel, and we pledge to continue to provide support and assistance to those in need, to empower those who are able, and to build leadership and confidence in all the regions and communities in Israel.

As the newly installed president of UIAFC, I am



Barbara Farber

pleased to extend my very best wishes to all of you for a year of good health, prosperity and peace for you, your families, Canadian Jewry and Israel.

As a member of the Ottawa Jewish community, I am proud to serve at the national level and to infuse it with a sense of warmth and tradition, so characteristic of our community.

Shana Tova u'metuka from my family to yours. May the new year be blessed with sweetness and peace. Happy
New Year
to the
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Reinhartz lectures part of Soloway JCC fall adult programming

Among the wide and varied assortment of adult programs choose from this fall are two lectures by Adele Reinhartz, a professor in the department of classics and religious studies at the University of Ottawa and an elected member of the Royal Society of Canada.

Reinhartz is the author of numerous articles on a broad range of topics, in particular those dealing with firstcentury Judaism and Christianity. As well, she has authored eight

Screen. Her latest book is a study of Jesus movies, entitled Jesus of Hollywood.

The first lecture, Why and How Jews Should Read the New Testament, will take place on Tuesday evening, October 30 and The Jewish Jesus: The View from Hollywood will be held on Tuesday evening, November 27.

Professor Rebecca Margolis, assistant professor in the Vered Jewish Canadian studies program at the University of Ottawa, will return this fall with a series of two Sunday morning Bagel Brunches. Tkines and Women's Spirituality In Ashkenaz: Yiddish



Women's Prayer and Practice in Eastern Europe will take place on Sunday, October 21 at 10:30 am and A Discussion of Jewish Yiddish writers in Canada; J.I. Segal, Ida Maza, Yudika, etc. will follow at the same time on Sunday, November 18.

New to the course calendar this year is a variety of crafts led by Heidi Pivnick, They include Hardanger Challah Cover, Funky Knit Socks, and Traditional Rug Hooking. An all-day Stained Glass Mosaic work-

books, including Scripture on the Silver shop instructed by Cindy Laneville, will take place on Sunday, October 14.

Fine arts eourses return with Contemporary Jewish Art and Artists, Watercolour: Basics and Explorations and Basic Drawing.

Hebrew, Yiddish and Spanish courses are being offered at beginner and advanced levels. As well, the Shira Ottawa Choir weleomes you to join them at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 6 as they return for their 10th season. New members are weleome

To find out more about the fall eourses, call Roslyn Wollock at 613-798-9818, ext. 254 or rwollock@jccottawa.com

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B.H.

If ves, please consider the following:

- If you are single or married, join us for a Friday night Shabbat dinner at our home. Lots of good food and company.
- If you have a preschooler, register him/her in our popular Jewish Preschool of the Arts. We have certified teachers and our curriculum includes music, dance and art.
- If you love Jewish books, take out a membership at our Jewish Youth Library of Ottawa, we have thousands of English Judaica books for children and adults
- If you love learning Talmud or Jewish Mysticism, join us Sunday morning or Tuesday night for Rabbi Botnick's very popular classes.
- If you have a toddler, join us every Friday morning at our very popular Shabbat for Tot drop in. We bake challah, have a Shabbat snack and make creative crafts.
- If you have a teen, get him/her to register as a volunteer with our successful Friendship Circle program, where we match teenagers with children who have special needs.
- If you yourself love to volunteer, join our Board of Directors. We have quarterly meetings and this is a chance to get involved with meaningful projects and meet interesting and educated people.

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Shalom Baby helps parents form social connections

committee chair

Many new parents find the joys of raising a newborn are often coupled with anxiety and strain.

Without a proper network of family and friends, the first year of a child's life can be challenging, especially if they are new to the city. Although there is a wide range of programs for parents and babies within the community-at-large, there is virtually none within the Jewish community or with a specific Jewish focus.

That is about to change. The new SJCC program, funded by the Federation's outreach initiative, is called Shalom Baby

"Shalom Baby is specifically designed to meet the needs of parents for their child within the first 12 months of life," says Jackie Luffman, SJCC board member and Shalom Baby committee member

Its ultimate goal is to provide parents with an opportunity to form social connections and meet others in similar situations

"As a first-time mom, such a program [Shalom Babyl would have been a wonderful way for me to meet new moms in the Jewish community; a great way

to be introduced to the services and activities offered at the SJCC while sharing the adventures of motherhood with new moms," says Lewkowicz-Kelly, Shalom Baby committee

Upon notification of a new baby, Shalom Baby will deliver a beautiful welcome basket to the newborn and family including a resource booklet fisting everything from Jewish schools, books on Jewish parenting, to fun things to do in Ottawa. It also includes secular resources targeted at parents and babies as well as gifts for the newborn.

The welcome basket is only the beginning. All parents and their babies are invited each month to join in Shalom Baby's vast array of fun and informative pro-

Everything from baby food making, strollercize classes, car seat clinics and even a baby sleep specialist are on this year's roster of programs. The programs will be offered at the SICC and other locations across

Shalom Baby has been an overwhelming success in the United States and Canada for several years. The Shalom Baby of Winnipeg

develop lifelong friendships from what started out as a simple 'bagels and blocks' program.

A dedicated committee of staff and volunteers has worked hard to develop the program in Ottawa.

If you are a parent or you know of any parent who is looking to find age-appropriate community activities, discuss common baby concerns and meet other parents while participating in entertaining activities. Shalom Baby is the answer.

Don't miss our program launch scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2007.

For additional information or to get involved in the program, visit the website at www.iccottawa.com or www.shalombabyottawa.ca or contact Penni Namer at 613-798-9818 ext. 243; fax 613-798-9839; e-mail pnamer@jccottawa.com.

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Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Shana Tova.

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Sid Rothman ז"ל

Me wish to thank oll of our family ond friends for the overwhelming expressions of sympothy and love that we received following our beloved Sid's sudden possing.

Your prayers, contributions, cards, meols, visits and kind words touched us all so deeply.

We cannot truly express how you hove helped us through these very difficult times.

Pleose occept this modest thank you os an oppreciotion for oll that you did and oll that you continue to do for us.

Shelley, Stuart, Nina, PJ and Marshall Rothman



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Adath Shalom welcomes Deborah Zuker to lead 29th High Holy Day services

By Elaine Vininsky

Adath Shalom Congregation is welcoming Ottawa native Deborah Zuker to provide spiritual guidance for the congregation's 29th High Holy Days.

A second-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, Zuker earned an MA in Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary and an MSW from Columbia University with training in social work focused on Jewish hospice care. She will now participate in a newly formed intensive text-study track at JTS focused on Talmud and Jewish law.

"It is a unique feature that Deborah knows the Ottawa Jewish community personally, and that she learned first-hand about the interests and priorities of our congregation," says Co-President Paul Adler.

Zuker was considered for the High Holy Days position after she conductated a Shabbaton for the egalitarian congregation last May. She led a discussion on the meaning of prayer and the ideological foundations of the Conservative movement. This gave her the opportunity to mingle with the members.

"I feel blessed to be able to develop a relationship with Adath Shalom in Ottawa, where I have my own roots," she says.

Zuker believes the High Holy Days provide every Jew with a significant spiritual opportunity for selfreflection and growth

"As we experience our traditional liturgy together, we will reflect upon the



Deborah Zuker

emotional resonance of this time of year for us as Jews; both as individuals and within our community.

"No matter where we each are in our life path, the High Holy Days are a time of reconnection and return, tshuva, to who we are and to a sense of closeness to God."

Devoted to promoting volunteerism among her fellow students, Zuker is particularly passionate about the issues of hunger and homelessness in New York City.

Her past volunteer experience includes teaching English to underprivileged Israeli children, holding various leadership positions at Queen's University Hillel and staffing a distress phone line. She spent the summer working at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, providing social and emotional support to campers, staff and families

Volunteering is also inherent at Adath Shalom. Throughout the year, at its weekly Shabbat services held in the chapel at the Jewish Community Campus at 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, and for the special requirements for the High Holy Days, lay members organize and conduct all aspects of services. An experienced High Holy Days committee takes on the complex demands each year in organizing services.

The High Holy Day services will take place in the air-conditioned Soloway Jewish Community Centre social hall. The small congregation swells to a community of about 250 worshippers when extended family, High Holy Days members, affiliates, students and visitors join in the services. Seating is unas-

signed. Babysitting for children and a volunteer-led youth program are offered. Kiddushim and snacks served to children are strictly kosher.

Adath Shalom has a universal, low membership structure that includes unassigned High Holy Day tickets. It also offers 50 per cent off full membership for families with children enrolled in Ottawa Jewish schools. By arrangement, tickets are available for non-members and, free of charge, to university stu-

To make arrangements for the High Holy Days, please call Adath Shalom at 613-240-4564.



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OTC celebrates 10 years, offers 'meaningful High Holiday' service

spiritual home," when describing Ottawa Torah Center Chabad (OTC). A place that guides you on your journey towards connection

Connection with God. with your roots, with your people, with your purpose in life and, most importantly, with who you really are.

With the upcoming High Holidays season, OTC is celebrating its 10-year anniversary of service in the Ottawa Jewish community.

"It's a special milestone for us when we look at the tremendous achievements we have accomplished in the last 10 years" says Rabbi Menachem M. Blum, spiritual leader and director of OTC. "But I think it's also a celebration for the whole community who really appreciates the work of OTC.

When Rabbi Blum moved to Barrhaven in the summer of 1997 and founded the OTC, people were asking him "what will you do

By the time the High Holidays rolled around that year, the rabbi and his wife Dina hosted their first Rosh Hashanah service at the Walter Baker Sports Centre. The warmth of the growing OTC family continued to attract dozens of families from various backgrounds to participate and High Holiday Services were held in subse-



OTC's rented storefront on Cedarview Road is expanding into the space next door.

courses and malls.

Four years ago, OTC rented a storefront on Cedarview

"Our community was growing and we needed more space," says Rabbi Rhum Participants really enjoy and find meaning in our services. It is the user-friendly feel, the inspiring insights and guidance throughout the service that makes it unique."

As OTC enters its second decade, it is expanding into the store next door.

"Our expanded and renovated space will allow for praying in the utmost of comfort and there will be plenty

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quent years at hotels, golf of room for our children's program," notes the rabbi.

While OTC expands to include a total 4,000 sq. ft. rented space, fundraising efforts are on the way for the building of the new OTC Synagogue/Centre at 111 Lamplighters Drive.

"OTC has a really wonderful, warm, friendly atmosphere," says Mitch Levy, who attended services at the beginning of OTC. "It's a very accepting environment."

One thing Rabbi Blum is most proud of is the diversity of its members.

"From totally unaffiliated affiliation. in terms of observance to traditional Jews and everything in between," he says. "To have that mix is really wonderful for a shul."

In 2005, a Sunday Hebrew school program premiered with six students now there are 25. OTC's programs vary from standard synagogue programming such as Shabbat and High Holiday services and adult education - to special holiChanukah events, a shofar factory, a Purim feast and a Matzah bakery.

There are weekly services on Shabbat (Friday night, morning and afternoon) and all holidays. There is even a Sunday morning monthly minyan.

"I think, for Barrhaven, it's absolutely tremendous," Rabbi Blum says. "We've seen it grow from a struggle to get a minyan to well over 40-50 people every Shabbat."

Rabbi Blum notes OTC's open-door policy to all Jews, regardless of observance or

This year's High Holiday Services will be better than ever as we build on a decade of experience" he explains.

We have learned a lot in the last 10 years and we invite everyone to discover this meaningful secret we hold beyond the green belt."

For reservation and information about High Holidays and other OTC programs, call 613-823-

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Dr. Harris Prehogan on graduating cum laude this past spring from Boston University School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Prehogan is the son of Ron and Avalee Prehogan and the brother of Dara. He has joined the general dental practice of Dr. David Lipnowski in Ottawa.







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'Wisdom Keeper' Rabbi Arthur Waskow to speak in Ottawa Eco-Judaism; in addressing

Rabbi Arthur Waskow. one of the world's most influential religious leaders, has accepted an invitation to make a rare visit to Ottawa on September 30. He will speak on two central issues of our time - global warming and peace-building in the Middle East

His first talk, "Between the Generations: A covenant to heal the Earth from global scorching," will take place at Temple Israel (1301 Prince of Wales Drive) at 3:00 pm. It builds on a Shalom Center project on Beyond Oil" led by Rabbi Waskow, involving religious communities in addressing both the personal and household addiction to oil

and the political and economic structures that feed and intensify this addiction.

That evening at 7:30, he will speak on "The Tent of Abraham: Making Peaceful Connection Among Jews, Christians, and Muslims" at the Soloway JCC (21 Nadolny Sachs Private).

This talk is based on his newest book, The Tent of Abraham (Beacon. 2006) co-authored with Sister Joan Chittister and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chisti. The book draws on the saga of Abraham to encourage peaccmaking, shared celebration and shared political action among the three Abrahamic communities.

Rabbi Waskow's visit is co-sponsored by Temple Israel, the Soloway JCC, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, the Ottawa Reconstructionist Hayurah, Adath Shalom Congregation and Canadian Friends of Peace Now. All are welcome to attend both events.

In 1996, Rabbi Waskow was named by the United Nations one of 40 "Wisdom Keepers" - religious and intellectual leaders from all over the world who attended the Habitat II conference in Istanbul.

In 2001, he was presented the Abraham Joshua Heschel Award by the Jewish Peace Fellowship. In 2005, he was named one of the "Forward Fifty" by the Forward, a leading American Jewish newspaper.

In 2007, Newsweek named him one of America's 50 most influential rahbis. For more information. contact: Maxine Miska (613-798-9818, ext. 263). miska@jccottawa.com, or Diana Ralph (613-321-2834), dianar@magma.ca.



val cycle: Godwrestling Round 2 on new interpretations of the Bible; Down-to-Earth Judaism: Food, Sex. Money, & the Rest of Life: and (with his wife Rabbi Phyllis Berman) A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven on the Jewish lifecycle have all brought new spiritual depth and newly progressive political sub-

Rabbi Waskow pioneered in the synthesis of spiritually rooted ceremony and prophetic political action in celebration of festivals and life-cycle transformations (e.g., a Tu B'Shevat Seder to protect the redwood forest and a Hoshana Rabbah celebration to protect the Hudson River).

He also led in developing a spiritually rooted prophetic the theology and practice of

as a religious issue the use of torture by the US government; and in facing the emergence in our generation of top-down, unaccountable power in the US government

as a recurrence of the arche-

In 2002, he joined in founding Rabbis for Human Rights/North America as secretary of its board and steering committee, and was instrumental in urging it to work on human rights issues in the US (especially torture) as well as supporting RHR Israel's work on human rights in Israel and

Waskow was legislative assistant to a US Congressman from 1959 to 1961: then a Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington DC until 1977 and of

Palestine

the Public Resource Center till 1982.

During those years he wrote seven hooks on US public policy in loreign affairs and military strategy. race relations and energy policy, and was among the leaders of the movement to end the Vietnam War. He was elected an antiwar, antiracist delegate from the District of Columbia to the Democratic National Convention of 1968, and was co-author of the Call to Resist Illegitimate Authori ty, supporting draft res tance to the Vietnam W

He taught at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College from 1982 to 1989 and has taught as a visiting professor in the departments of religion at Swarthmore. Vassar, Temple University and Drew University

New Year's greetings to the Ottawa Jewish Community

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Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka

Cantor Pinchas Levinson

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Rabbi Waskow's achievements

Rabbi Waskow is one of the creators and leaders of lewish renewal since writing the original Freedom Seder in 1969. In 1983, he founded and has since been director of The Shalom Center (www.shalomctr.org) that draws on Jewish and other spiritual and religious teachings to work for justice, peace, and the healing of our wounded earth.

His books, Seasons of Our Jov on the Jewish festistance to Jewish life.

approach to support of a two-state peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; in developing



Paul Dewar

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The transporting joy of dance, Israeli style

By Kinneret Globerman

American dancer and choreographer Agnes De Mille once said, "To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, nore beautiful, more powerful. This is power, it is glory on earth, and it is yours for the taking."

This could very well be the motto of the Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers. Every Tuesday night for the past 30 years, Jewish and non-Jewish men, women and children have come together to share in the joy of the dance. Veterans and newcomers, young and old, those with flair and those who dare—they all put on their dancing shoes and give themselves over to the music, song and choreography of Israeli folkdancing.

"I love this with a passion," says the group's co-ordinator, one of its dance instructors, and 20-year veteran, Phil Kretzmar. "It's almost spiritual – it's an intense physical and emotional experience."

The intensity is spiritual. Long-time dancers like Judy Rostenne get lost in the music. Modern Israeli music has a variety of cultural influences including Eastem European, Greek, North African, and Middle Eastem. The music is transporting; you can fly to Eretz Yisrael on a song.

Israeli dancing has evolved over the years. It's not just centred on horas. While some of the old-style dances still remain, contemporary choreography is highly expressive. There is an allowable freedom of expression and looseness in interpretation.



Come dance with the Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers on Tuesday nights.

"It doesn't really matter if people have a style or not," says Rostenne, "as long as they are enjoying themselves. You don't have to be a ballerina or a tango dancer."

And if you learn to dance with the group, you'll be able to dance anywhere in the world. There is a global dance fellowship to which you are automatically a member.

ROSH HASHANAH: SEPTEMBER 12-14

YOM KIPPUR: SEPTEMBER 21-22

"Wherever I go, I have a huge group of

new friends to join," says Rostenne, who drops in on Israeli folkdancing groups wherever she travels, whether it's in Florida. Brazil or Vancouver

"We're connected to a worldwide community," says Kretzmar.

You don't have to be a dance maven to kick up your heels with the Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers. Your two left feet will find a

home there. Tuesday evenings begin with learning the basic steps at 6:30. Beginner's dances are taught at 7:00, followed by beginner's request dancing. The more advanced dances are taught later on. Soon "teherkassiya" and "debka" will be part of your vocabulary as you build up a repertoire of easy dances while building your confidence.

By 8:30, the teaching and reviewing of dances is done, and the rest of the evening is given over to requests. Many beginners who start out in September are able to follow along in the more difficult dances by the time April and May roll around. Once a year, an out-of-town guest instructor is invited to conduct an evening workshop with back-to-back dances.

For \$3 a night, you can dance for as little or as long as you like. Some die-hards stay the entire four hours. The dancing has been taking place at the Hillel Academy gym on Broadview Avenue for the past many years.

Over the years, the group - run by volunteers like Kretzmar and Rostenne - has witnessed children grow up, marriages made, people come and go and then return. Children and seniors and every age in between have kept Tuesday nights sacrosanct to the dance.

For more information, contact Judy Rostenne at judy@ottawaisraelidance.ca or check out the brand new website at www.ottawaisraelidance.ca.

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Sprint Triathlon champion plans to keep on competing

Muscles aching. Heart pounding. Mind focused. For Lorne Weiner, current Canadian Sprint Triathlon champion, there is no feeling greater than the accomplishment of finishing a triathlon, win or lose.

Weiner, 58, is the current Canadian national champion in the sprint-length triathlon category in the age group of 55-59. While sprint-length triathlon distances vary slightly, they generally consist of a 750-metre swim, a 20kilometre bike ride, and a 5-kilometre run, says Weiner, who has been competing since 2004. He became the national champion of his age group on June 30 with a time of one hour 17 minutes and six seconds in Brampton, Ontario.

With his win in Brampton, Weiner qualified for the World Championship in Vancouver next year. Weiner also qualified for the World Championship in Lausanne, Switzerland last year, but was unable to attend due to family commitments.

Although the championship could be seen as a goal for a triathlete, Weiner says it is "just another triathlon. It's just at a



Lorne Weiner participates in the Carleton Place Sprint Triathlon.

higher level of competition.

'My ultimate goal is to feel good come in first or last, it doesn't real-

about the race I just had. Whether I

that I've trained hard, and that I did the best I could."

However, he does admit he would rather compete in the Olympic distance triathlons. which are double the length.

So, in August, he raced in the Canadian Olympic Triathlon in Drummondville, Quebec, winning the bronze medal in his age group and qualifying for the World Championship next year in the Olympic distance.

"I feel great," says Weiner. "I felt good the whole way by doing the right training and being ready.

Weiner began competing in triathlons after he realized he was already doing enough training for it in his normal schedule.

"I've been swimming for about 22 years," he says, "About 10 years ago, I decided I'd also bike. About five years ago. I watched the Meech Lake Triathlon and got interested. I started to run and I found out I could do it."

Weiner surprises himself with his triathlon performances, which usually find him in first or second place in his age group. His athletic prowess is especially surprising, he says, since he had never really

competed before, and wasn't used to running.

"I'm not really built for running or I wasn't training right, and so I was getting injured," says Weiner, who decided to get a coach last year to help him train. "I'm getting better. My training is working."

Triathlon competitions require devotion and commitment.

"You have to want to do it," says Weiner, a family physician. Father of two and married to Nancy Maddams, yoga instructor and retired teacher, Weiner says training for triathlons keeps him tired constantly and causes him to sacrifice time with friends and family.

"There's no glory in it," he says. "But you do it because it's a great feeling at the end [when] you feel you've really accomplished something."

With Weiner approaching 60 years old, he says he would like to continue running triathlons for as long as he can.

"It's a very healthy lifestyle, it's beyond litness," says Weiner. "I think the main reason people stop is because of injury or ill health. I don't plan to stop unless those two



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Lowy Collection of rare Hebraïca, Judaïca inspires visitors

By Lisa Shapiro

It may be one of Ottawa's most closely held secrets. This year is the 30th anniversary of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection of some 3.000 rare Hebraic and Judaic books and manuscripts held in the serene, pristine, climate-controlled embrace of Library and Archives Canada

Researchers, students, artists, tourists, the merely curious lewish and not lewish - there is a feeling of awe in seeing the volumes of vision and hope, faith and determination. One dates back to 1470, a mere few decades after Johannes

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Curator Chervl Jaffee says the collection is important to all Canadians, regardless of background. Our common connection is the Bible, the religious and literary centre of our shared heritage.

Among the highlights of the collection are the bibles, 150 editions in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, English, German, Yiddish, Polish, Spanish and other languages.

In addition to the Talmuds. commentaries, Haggadahs and other philosophical and liturgical books, the collection contains mathematical and scientific writings, not to

Gutenberg's invention of the mention works on history, geography, travel, philology. poetry and belles-lettres.

Jaffee points out that many of the books in the collection survived the Holocaust. In its entirety, the collection is a monument to the survival of Jewish civilization. As such, Jaffee believes these books are part of the story of our history and have an extraordinary hold on the imagination of Jew and non-Jew alike.

In this age of reproductions, of virtual reality, Jaffee exudes fascination and respect for these originals which "hold the soul of a people." Some have notations with birth, marriage and yahrzeit dates; some have fringes of tallesim wedged into corners; some, in their damage, intimate the danger that their owners faced.

In the community, we hear from time to time about events of hundreds, even thousands of years ago. Here, facing these books, the sense of time becomes more



Beginning of Had Gadya: Lowy Haggadah Manuscript, copied and illustrated in Altona, Germany in 1763. (Photo: Jacob M. Lowy Collection, Library and Archives Canada)

Among those who have their own creativity. found inspiration in the collection are a number of artists some of whom have absolutely no knowledge of Hebrew or the Jewish religion. Yet they find the artistry, the graphics, the layouts of the books can provide

Before the acquisition of the collection in 1977, there were significantly fewer rare Hebraic texts in Canadian institutions, and fewer Hebrew incunabula, that is, books printed before 1500.

The oldest Jewish Canadithem with an impetus for an book in the collection was 6/26/s26-400-e.html.

50 Years, compiled by Rabbis Jacques J. Lyons of New York and Abraham De Sola of

Mr. Lowy, born in Bardejov, Slovakia in 1908, was a real estate developer, community leader, ardent book-lover and collector and philanthropist. He donated the bulk of his collection in 1977 to thank Canada for the warm hospitality it extended to him after his arrival in Montreal in 1951. He continued to contribute to the collection until his death in 1990 at age 82.

His wife, Clara Lowy, donated the last books from the family collection this past spring.

While the Lowy collection is open to the public, it is best to make an appointment in advance. Contact Cheryl Jaffee, Curator, Jacob M. Lowy Collection, Library and Archives Canada, 613-995-7960, e-mail: chervl. jaffee@lac-bac.gc.ca.

For information on the collection and access to the online catalogue Incunabula Hebraica and Judaica go to www.collectionscanada.cat

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Ottawa celebrates 30th anniversary of Jacob M. Lowy Collection and Jewish Studies Programs

The 30th anniversary of Library and Archives Canada's Jacob M. Lowy Collection of rare Hebraic and Judaic books and manuscripts will be celebrated in style with two

Presentation on Hebrew manuscripts

On Wednesday, October 24, Dr. Emile Schrijver, curator of the Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana at Amsterdam University in the Netherlands, will give a free presentation on the beauty of illustrated Hebrew manuscripts of the 18th century.

Dr. Schrijver will highlight the Lowy Collection's own Haggadah manuscript, a colourful and intriguing creation from mid-18th century Germany.

The presentation will be at 7:30 pm in the Library Auditorium, 395 Wellington Street.

Discussions to celebrate Jewish studies in Ottawa

On Wednesday, October 24 and Thursday, October 25, in celebration of both the new Jewish studies programs in Ottawa and the Lowy Collection's 30th anniversary, 29 scholars from Canada, the US and Israel will pre-

sent papers on diverse Jewish topics at the colloquium, A Celebration of Jewish Studies

Presenters will discuss Jewish society, culture and politics, classic and modern Jewish thought, Jewish literature, art and popular culture, gender and anti-Semitism, as well as Jewish journalism, education and community-building.

The free event will be primarily in English, with some presentations in French. Location is Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, rooms 154 and 156, starting at 8:30 am on October 24 and 9:00 am on October 25.

The colloquium is co-sponsored by Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and the University of Ottawa's Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program.

Both in number of speakers and breadth of scope, the colloquium is a significant milestone in the history of Jewish studies in Canada and, it is hoped, the first of many such conferences in Canada.



The 20th Century Jewish Exodus from Mostem Lands

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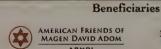
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MARKETING DIRECTOR

The individual in this position (under the supervision of the President/COO) will create, develop and implement all marketing initiatives for the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC).

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- · Develop, implement and coordinate all marketing strategies;
- · Serve as the primary resource and support for marketing and promotional activities for the SJCC;
- · Develop all SJCC's public relation materials, including but not limited to program guides, brochures, flyers, press releases;
- · Create and implement marketing and communications plan to increase and maximize exposure of the SJCC;
- · Consult with Department Directors in the development and planning of their department's public relations strategy;
- · Write, edit, produce and coordinate distribution of all public relations materials:
- · Develop and maintain a media archive of photographs and clips.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- · Minimum 5 years of marketing experience;
- · Advanced graphic computer skills;
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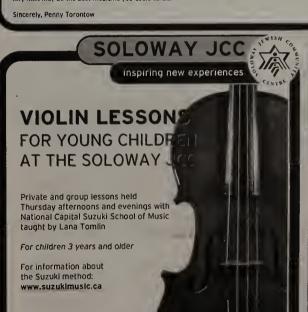
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For more information please contact Gail Lieff at 613-798-9818 ext. 303 or glieff@jccottawa.com

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WHAT IS THE FLORENCE MELTON SCHOOL?

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Ottawa is part of an international network of schools that seek to inspire, enlighten and challenge adult learners from all segments of the Jewish community to study Judaism seriously and comprehensively. There are over 60 schools in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia with over 15,000 adult student graduates worldwide.

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Hillel alumni association goal to create sense of family

By Jason Sherriff It is a question Hillel

Academy educators have been contemplating for roughly three years.

How does a community keep in contact with its graduates?

Sara Breiner, vicc-presi-

dent of Judaic studies believes the Hillel Academy Alumni Association may be the solution.

The association was launched at an event held May 6 at the school, which brought together as many alumni as possible to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of Hillel Academy.

"The friendships that you form early on in your years are the friendships that you keep. They're the strongest bonds," she says. "We want these children to always think fondly of Hillel, think fondly of the community they grew up in and to have that strong relationship with it."

Former president of the Hillel Academy Board Jacquie Levy notes there are several benefits to having an alumni association.

"The mandate of Hillel is not just Jewish education while the kids are there; we want it to be the hub of the community."

The association will help strengthen the Jewish community, she believes, by creating a network and a sense of family among the graduates.

The alumni association also allows current Hillel students to see how successful its graduates can be. One of Hillel's graduates, Jory Steinberg, was a contestant on American Idol earlier this year, and Hillel students created a fan group to cheer her on.

"They don't know this person, but it didn't matter. The fact that she was a Hillel graduate was enough for them," says Levy. "And that's the kind of spirit we're trying to create. We are here together, we're family."

Hillel Development Coordinator Helen Bobat is setting up a website, creating a Facebook account to appeal to younger members of the community and planning events for the association, which will include alumni from across the world.

"We want to create a social atmosphere for them." she says, "and maybe even down the road encouraging a mentorship program, where older alumni can mentor current students in the school."

Levy says the school is always searching for more volunteers, since the alumni association requires a lot of work and time.

"Like most things at Hillel, [the alumni association] relies on volunteers, and volunteers have another life."

With upcoming social

events designed to cater to specific age groups, Levy says the volunteers have "golden intentions," but apologize in advance for any mistakes they may make along the way.

"Be patient as we construct [the alumni association]," she says, "since this is not some big company here putting this together.

"People should come forward, bring their ideas. They'd be welcomed. Don't wait for an invitation. We are here, wanting you to come in.

"Please reach out to us and you'll find welcoming arms. We always say, 'once a member of the Hillel family, always a member of the Hillel family."

See page 40 for details on how to subscribe to the OJB.



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Should you 'Google' your date?

gorgeous guy and are eager to find out everything you can about him. You do a Google search, and check out Facebook, MySpace or similar social networking sites for any personal details.

You learn he attended Cambridge University, worked as documentary filmmaker, once shared a flat with a Malaysian woman and is fond of poodles.

You feel you might be intruding, but rationalize: the information is publicly available, it's easily accessible, everyone does it and your date is probably "working the

Moreover, you've learned that rummaging around in cyberspace enables you to better prepare for your encounter. For instance, you can now read up on British filmmaking and once he mentions his occupation - ta da impress him with your 'well-rounded' knowledge. Crafty?

Excessive Googling, however, can also harm the mystery and romance of your first date. And if some of the information you acquire is erroneous (as with all information on the Internet, there is no independent authentication), it can affect your objectivity, cause you to form an incorrect impression of him or her or - worse - lead you to make a wrong decision about the relationship.

According to Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir, a leading educator

in applied Jewish ethics, it's permissible to do a simple web search on a private individual's name to see his or her most prominent activities; however, this is different from making a concerted effort to uncover all available public information about someone, including paying fees to certain 'investigative' websites. Doing so, he argues, would be an invasion of privacy, not to mention it would expose your eyes to gossip. There may be details that an individual doesn't want others to know. In many cases, someone (an angry 'ex.' for example) could have submitted defamatory information.

But, you may argue, what about protecting yourself against deceptive and manipulative characters?

lt's true, in global cyberdating, people may correspond with you, write affectionate letters and eventually ask you for money, often for fabricated reasons (urgent surgery, to be able to fly to you, for a VISA application, etc). It's important to verify that the person is genuinely interested in you and doesn't have ulterior motives.

I suggest, if you are considering hiring a private eye, or assuming the role yourself, you probably shouldn't be dating him or her in the first place. If the relationship becomes serious, but you feel something isn't quite right, you may want to do a criminal record check or find out things such as whether there were any previous marriages, children born out of wedlock or significant personal debts.

When you seek information about someone, it should be



Dating 101

Jack Botwinik

specific and for a constructive purpose. Certainly, if you end a relationship, you have no right to pry into his or her life. Some people spend hours cyber-searching the latest information about old loves, in effect continuing to 'see them' from the safety of their lonely abode.

Also, stay away from tittle-tattle sites that maintain extensive databases of bad dates or rank men and women on infidelity, hygiene, education, abusive behaviour, commitment potential and even sexual performance.

In the past, guys and girls would ogle one another. Today. they Google one another. A simple, one-time search is harmless. As a prolonged, self-indulgent activity, I would not recommend it.

Jack Botwinik is the author of Chicken Soup with Chopsticks: A Jew's Struggle for Truth in an Interfaith Relationship. Comments are appreciated and can be sent to Jack via Author Page at www.PaperSpider.Net (www.paper spider.net/authors/jack botwinik.html)

Parents, children and rachmonos theme of High Holiday

Let not kindness and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck, write them upon the table of thy heart. (Praverbs 3:3, JPS Tanach)

A Yiddish dictionary interprets [rachmonos] as ... sympathy, empathy. It is much more, though. It is heartfelt loving kindness and care that affects your soul to such a point that it will drive you to action to help the other person you are feel-

- fram Mad About Medicine blog

The watchwords of the High Holidays are simple to remember, but profound in their significance: Tfillah, Tshuvah, Tzdakah- prayer, repentance and loving kindness (symbolized by charity). We believe, as individuals and as a community that the "evil decree," strict justice, retribution for our failings and misdeeds, can be averted by changing our ways.

This concept is profound. God can change His intended actions, influenced by sincere changes in human behaviour. God is always the incorruptible judge (Dayan emet). But rachmonos (El rachamon - the Lord of mercy) is always present and this potential can manifest itself at any time.

Rachmonos is a thread that is woven throughout the Torah readings and Haftorah of the High Holiday services. In the Rosh Hashanah readings, rachmonos with regard to parents and children is emphasized: Sarah's petition and Isaac's birth, Hagar and Ishmael's miraculous rescue, Hannah's prayer which, like Sarah's, are answered with the birth of a son, Samuel. The most heart wrenching example is when Abraham takes his son, Isaac, to the very brink of sacrifice.

God suddenly intervenes, and through the instrument of the ram caught in the thicket, reprieves both Abraham and his son (our ancestral father and ourselves, his heirs) from this

All of these examples underline the Torah's message: God cares about individual human beings. It is significant that a ram, caught in the thicket, suddenly appears as the substitute sacrifice. One of the reasons we blow the shofar (ram's horn) throughout the Days of Awe is to remind us that just as Isaac's life depended on God's answer to Sarah's prayer and on the mercy God showed to Abraham, we are all dependent on Divine rachmonos

The rest of the High Holiday readings can be seen as elab-



Global Shtetl The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

orations of the theme. To start with the focus on parents and children, to select precisely these readings to launch the High Holidays, is psychologically astute: which of us has not been concerned with hopes and fears for our children, grandchildren and other loved ones?

But once this is firmly established, driven into our hearts as well as our minds, the readings move to emphasizing God's mercy for collectivities; communities, Israel throughout the generations, other nations, and the whole of God's creation.

How the rachmones theme moves from the initial message that this is directly relevant and crucial to ourselves, to each of us as individuals and as members of a family - to the broader message of universal rachmouos, as the corollary of Divine judgment and as a model for human aspirations, is the subject of the upcoming Yom Kippur column.

Sarah's obituary: http://www.utoronto.ca/wjudaism/ contemporary/articles/sarah_in_our_prayers.htm



The Akedah (based on the tradition of R. Nachman of Braslav): http://www.barmitzva.org/Earth/mount-11.html

Divine mercy to Hagar and Ishmael - Jewish Encyclopedia (1908): Ishmael – http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com. view.jsp?artid=277&letter=1&search=Ishmael

and Hagar: http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp? artid=53&letter=H

Cbana and Samuel: why selected for Rosh Hashanah Haftorah? Two aspects of change: tshuvah as aspect of change in the process of prayer elicits rachmonos (change in what appeared to be an ineluctable decree from the Almighty): http://www.biu.ac.il/JH/Parasha/eng/rosh/

Chana's prayer as a model (Chabad): http://www.chabad.org/ library/article.asp?AID=89738



New Year honey desserts for non-honey lovers

Hashanah (to symbolize our wish for a sweet year to come). I have to admit, I have never really developed a taste for honey. I just find the flavour too cloving. So, this year, I decided to find some way of using honey in the dessert without it being the predominant flavour.

When I saw Nigella Lawson (Food Network) bake a honcy chocolate cake, I knew it would be perfect for Rosh Hashanah. Honcy is a wonderful complement for chocolate because neither flavour outshines the other. They work in perfect harmony

Lawson decorated the cake with little marzipan bumblebees, complete with painted black stripes and eyes (using the honey glaze as paint) and slivered almonds for the wings. I can't imagine anyone has time to actually create these bumblebees, but if you are really keen, you can find complete instructions at www.foodnetwork.com (type in Honey Bee Cake in the search box). The cake looked really cute with the bees!

The second recipe is for an apple tart, which uses honey in the crust. It's a nice change from the traditional apple

Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

Honey Bee Cake

This recipe comes from the Food Network show, Nigella Feasts with chef Nigella Lawson.

- 4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 1/3 cups soft light brown sugar
- 2 sticks butter or pareve margarine, room temperature
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (set aside 2 tablespoons of this flour to add to the mixer with the eggs)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cocoa powder
- I cup boiling water

Sticky Honey Glaze

- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup honey
- 6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

Place 4 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate in a microwave safe container and cook on medium power for 2 minutes. Stir chocolate and if not completely melted, cook for another 2 minutes on medium power. Set aside too cool slightly.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and butter the bottom and sides of a 9-inch springform pan. Line the bottom of the pan with a circle of parchment paper. Set aside.

Using a handheld or stand mixer, beat butter and sugar

until airy and creamy. Add honey and mix to incorporate Add 1 of the eggs, beating it in with a tablespoon of the flour, and then the other egg with another tablespoon of the flour. Mix in the melted chocolate and then the rest of the flour, baking soda and salt. Add the cocoa powder, pushed through a fine mesh strainer, to ensure you have no lumps. Beat in boiling water, Mix everything well to ensure you have a smooth batter. Pour into prepared tin.

Bake for 1 1/2 hours, though check the cake after 45 minutes and, if it is getting too dark, cover the top lightly with tinfoil and keep checking every 15 minutes. It is done when a wooden skewer inserted into centre of cake comes out clean. Let cake cool completely in springform pan set on a cooling rack.

To make the glaze, bring the water and honey to a boil in a saucepan. Turn off heat and add the 6 ounces of finely chopped chocolate, swirling it around in the hot liquid. Leave it for a few minutes then whisk together. Add icing sugar through a fine mesh strainer and whisk again until

Choose your plate or stand, and cut out 4 strips of waxed paper and form a square outline on the plate. When you sit the cake on the plate or stand to ice it, the icing will not run out all over the plate.

Unclip the tin and set the thoroughly cooled cake on the prepared plate. Pour the glaze over the cold honey bee cake; it might dribble a bit down the edges, but don't worry too much about that. The glaze stays tacky for ages, so ice in time for the glaze to harden a little, at least an hour before you want to serve it.

Apple Streusel Tart with Honey

This recipe comes from the November 2005 issue of Bon Appetit magazine. If you like a very sweet tart, use Royal Gala apples. If you like it a bit more tart, use Granny Smith apples.

- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- I teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) chilled unsalted butter

or pareve margarine, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 large egg yolks
- I tablespoon ice water

Streusel

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) chilled unsalted butter
- or pareve margarine, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

Filling

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 cups (packed) grated Royal Gala

or Granny Smith apples (about 4)

For crust, mix flour, sugar, cinnamon and salt in processor. Add butter; using on/off turns, process until mixture resembles coarse meal. Whisk honey, yolks and I tablespoon ice water in bowl. Add honey mixture to flour mixture; using on/off turns, process until clumps form. Gather dough into ball; flatten into disk. Wrap in plastic; chill 1 hour

Roll dough out on floured surface to 12-inch round. Transfer to 10-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Press dough onto bottom and up sides of pan. Fold overhang in; press to form double layer. Cover and chill 30 minutes or up to I day

For streusel, mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Using fingertips, rub in butter until pea-size clumps form. Refrigerate while preparing filling

For filling, preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk first 4 ingredients in large bowl to blend. Add grated apples; stir to coat. Transfer to crust, spreading evenly. Sprinkle streusel over. Bake until streusel is golden and filling is bubbling, about 1 hour. Cool. (Can be made 8 hours ahead. Let stand at room temperature.)

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Picture books exemplify the art of giving

Giving to others – whether charitable giving, giving of oneself or gift giving – is a universal experience. For Jews, it is also a mitzvah, a good deed. On Rosh Hashanah, that good deed in the form of tzedakah, loosely translated as eharity, is said to benefit the giver as well as the recipient. Tzedakah, along with prayer and repentance, averts "the evil decree."

The following two picture story books point out while giving is, indeed, a good in itself, there is an added benefit in how the gift is given and if it is, in some way, appropriate for the recipient.

> Even Higher By Richard Ungar Tundra Books 2007 Unpaged, Ages 7 - 10

Richard Ungar's Even Higher is a lighthearted adaptation of Yiddish writer I. L. Peretz's treasured story of the same name. Magnificently illustrated in visual folklore style (think Marc Chagall) with dense, muted watercolours and eoloured pencil on paper, Even Higher is set in the mythical long ago world of Eastern Europe shortly before Rosh Hashanah.

The story exemplifies what the beloved Rabbi of Nemirov describes as the highest form of giving to the poor. "And an even higher kind of giving is when the identity of the giver is not known to the person receiving the gift." Year after year, the rabbi does exactly that on the day before Rosh Hashanah. But to do it he mysteriously disappears from the village, returning at nightfall.

Over the years, the citizens of Nemirov have decided that on that special day their revered rabbi must fly up to heaven to plead their case for forgiveness before God's very throne. Three boys, however, are skeptical. Yossi, Menachem and Reuven agree the truth must be known. Reuven will spy on the rabbi.

And spy Reuven does. From early in the morning to night-



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

fall on the day before Rosh Hashanah, he follows the rabbi, observing every action, hearing every word. What Reuven discovers astonishes him. But what will he tell his friends?

Written with gentle humour and sensitive to the dignity of the story's theme, Ungar brilliantly balances boyish curiosity and banter, the three step convention of storytelling and the ephemeral aspects of folkloric tales. Even Higher soars.

> My New Shirt By Cary Fagan Illustrated by Dusan Petricic Tundra Books 2007 Unpaged. Ages 4 - 7

My New Shirt is a thoroughly modern, thoroughly hilarious take on gift giving. It combines the notions of a young boy receiving the same annual unwanted birthday present from a cleaner than clean Bubbie with the playfulness and fast-paced action of the Gingerbread Man.

Add some Yiddish word play, such as a dog named Pupik and a bakery called the Kuni Lemmel Bagel Shop, and stereotypes, such as a stiff white shirt turning a young boy into a "perfect little gentleman," and both reader and child will be laughing as loudly as I was.

What's a kid like David to do when his beloved Bubbie's



From My New Shir

"surprise" birthday gift is always a stiff white shirt? Throw it out the window, he thinks. As if by magic, out it goes! Pupik grabs the shirt and the chase begins. Down the fire escape, through the neighbour's vegetable garden, on and off the hairdresser's head, into Mr. Zangwill's bright red borscht and plop, into the bagel bin.

Not to worry. Bubbie, "the maestro of washing," can clean anything. And she does. So guess what happens next! But this time, Bubbie has met her match, promising David a different birthday present next year.

Presented as a photo album, the watercolour illustrations perfectly match and enhance the zaniness of the text. Yiddish humour is alive, well and flourishing in My New Shirt.

From my family to yours, we wish you a New Year filled with love, health, harmony and good deeds. Shanah Tova Tikataya!



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- GUTTEN TOG PROGRAM ... Connect with a Jewish senior living in a long-term care facility. Visit once a week, once a month!
- A young Jewish senior would like to relocate to Ottawa.
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- Senior gentleman needs your help to learn how to use the city bus (OC Transpo) to get around. Have some time to spare? Give us a call.
- Interested in going out for a coffee/chat and/or playing Gin Rummy with a Yiddish- or French-speaking gentleman recently back in Canada? Gregarious, outgoing and lives in Craig Henry.
- The Shalom Bayit Program (to prevent violence against Jewish women) is currently seeking volunteers to sit on its Committee. Interested? Please contact Sarah Caspi at 613-722-2225 ext. 246.
- Russian-speaking seniors need your help to improve their English skills. No teaching background required. A couple of hours per week in the Lincoln Fields and Kanata areas.
- Do you feel like a country drive? We have a 90-year-old female looking for a friendly visitor. She lives approximately 45 minutes east of Ottawa. The distance is far, but wouldn't it be nice to help someone in need who is so isolated?

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Days of Awe, days of contemplation

The 10-day period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is referred to as the Yamim Nora'im, or the Days of Awe. Rosh Hashanah is also referred to as Yom Teruah, or the day of the Shofar, used in ancient times to awaken the populace to important events. And what is more important than being roused to repent one's ways? Yom Hazikaron is the Day of Remembrance – of things past, of what there is to be thankful for.

The following two books will help you focus on the true meaning of these days of soul-searching.

A Code of Jewish Ethics: Volume 1, You Shall Be Holy By Rabbi Joseph Telushkin Bell Tower/Random House Hardcover, 2006

You have to admire Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. He is a prolific contributor to contemporary Jewisb life and Jewish teachings. He has written 12 books of his own, most of them best-sellers (Jewish Literacy and Biblical Literacy come to mind), and three more with other authors. His reach has even exceeded the Jewish community through book adaptations for TV (a PBS series based on The Book of Jewish Values; episodes of ABC's The Practice based on an Eye for an Eye) and specially written episodes for Touched by an Angel. The rabbi is also a sought-after speaker and was in Ottawa a few years ago to kick off the Federation annual campaign.

His latest offering is part of an ambitious undertaking. This is the first in three volumes designed to bring together, "3,000 years of Jewish laws and suggestions on how to improve our character and become more honest, decent, and just people"

Rabbi Telushkin has gathered sources from the Torah and Prophets, the Talmud and Midrash, the Mussar and Chassidic movements, the code of Jewish law and contemporary Jewish scholarship. As well, he has mined the writings of non-religious Jewish literature — writers like Sholom Aleichem and Dr. Aaron Lazare (former professor of psychiatry at Harvard who wrote a treatise on forgiveness entitled On Apology).

Like the Torah itself, which contains 613 laws followed by anecdotal applications of those laws, Rabbi Telushkin's Code of Jewish Ethics does the same. Stated laws are followed by stories which serve to imprint the message or teaching implied. Divided into five sections – from basic virtues and negative character traits, to God and ethics and leading a life of holiness – each section lists a code, followed by explanatory paragraphs.

Tum to any section (Forgiveness, for example) to find teachings on all aspects of the subject. (In this section, the sources the rabbi cites are familiar contemporaries: Rabbi Zefig Pliskin, Rabbi Abraham Twerski, Rabbi Harold Kushner, to name a few.) Some of the stories repeat themselves in other sections of the book if the rabbi has deemed them applicable and relevant. It's an informative and insightful resource.

Rabbi Telushkin has made Jewish thought and teachings accessible to every Jew in his previous books. This newest one is a welcome and equally important addition to your Telushkin reference library.



The Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

The Wisdom of Judaism: An Introduction to the Values of the Talmud By Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins Jewish Lights Publishing Softcover, 2007

Every civilization throughout history has influenced those that follow. Complex math and the scientific method have been attributed to the ancient Egyptians. The ancient Greeks contributed their philosophers and the drama genre. The Romans influenced law and architecture. Jews can claim ethics, justice and morality as theirs.

"The relentless passion of the Jewish people," writes Rabbi Elkins, "has been about how to grow the soul."

This book is the rabbi's attempt to distill some of the teachings on soul development that can be found in perhaps our greatest text, *The Talmud*.

His method is to take an aphorism (a concise maxim) and apply it to contemporary life.

Rabbi Eikins has divided his book into six sections—from human relationships and kindness, to personal and family values, teaching and learning and life's puzzles. Each part, in turn, has been divided into mini two-page chapters dealing with an aspect of that section. For example, in the section on family values, one chapter is entitled, Choosing a Partner, and the aphorism cited is from Yevamot 63a: "To acquire land, make haste. To pick a mate, deliberate slowly."

The rabbi then develops that aphorism into a readable discussion on the importance of choosing one's life partner wisely. In the same section, in Unconditional Love (the aphorism from Avot 5:19, "All love that is dependent on a motive, when the motive is gone, the love is gone. Love that is not dependent on a motive will endure forever."), he asks if it's possible to iove someone who has committed a crime or done evil to another and offers his views.

While much of his writing is common sense (with a decidedly humanistic bent), it's also engaging and the values espoused are worth being reminded of nonetheless. What better time than during the Days of Awe?

At the Greenberg Families Library:

The new fall programming begins. The Greenberg Families Library will be offering film series, special lectures and more.

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The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation acknowledges with thenks contributions to the following funds as of August 10, 2007.

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Anniversery wishes to:
Ann and Mark Dover on their 45th wedding anniversary by Uncle Roy and Carol.

MARY AND ISRAEL (AL) ALLICE MEMORIAL FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Birthdey wishes to: David Allice by Beverly and Irving Swedko.

Gordon and Myra Allice by Beverly and Irving

APPOTIVE FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

David and Edith Appotive on Their 65th wedding anniversary by Howard, Sharron, Debra, Sid, David and Sharon Appolive and Families; by Ruth and Joe Viner; and by Eric Appotive and Shannon Appotive. Birthday wishes to:

Dave Appotive on his 90th birthday and Edith Appotive on her 85fh birthday by Ruth and Joe Viner.

ANNE AND LOUIS ARRON MEMORIAL FUND In memory of:

Laraine Kaminsky's falher Solly Marcus by Daphne and Stanley Arron and Family.

ABRANAM AND RACHEL BAROOK MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Honey and Jack Baylin on the birth of their first

great-grandson by Cynthia and Max Weinsteln.

David and Joy Kardish on tha birth of their first grandson by Cynthia and Max Weinstein.

MARTIN AND ELLIE BLACK

Mezal Toy to:

David and Joy Kardish on becoming grandparents by Marty and Ellie Black.

In memory of:
Minam Gordon by Marty and Ellie Black.

Birthday wishes to:
Andy Katz on his special birthday by Marty and

DR. GERALD BLOOM MEMORIAL FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Lil and Norm Levilin on their 50th wadding anniversary by Ethel Bloom and Sam.

GOLDIE AND MORRIS CANTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Warm wishes to:

Gc!dia Cantor on her move to Toronto by Fey

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R'fuah Sh'lemeh to:

Moshe Kraus by Moa Cardash.

DAVID AND QUEENIE CONEN

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In memory of:

Kenneth Katz by Sandi and Eddy Cook and

Shimmy Cartebach by Sandi and Eddy Cook and

Birthday wishes to: Andy Katz on his special birthday by Sandi and

NATHAN AND REPAIDLENED ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to

Jessie and Joa Murray on Their 50th wedding anniversary by Reba Diener.

In observance of the Yahrzelt ot:

Nathan Diener, a beloved husband, father and grandfather by Reba Diener and Family. In memory of:

Charles Sokler by John and Dayra Diener and

MORRIE AND NELEN EISEN ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Helen Eisen on her 80th birthday by Jeff and Lois Eisen, Hailey and Isaac, Allan and Nat and Michael.

JEFFREY AND LOIS EISEN FAMILY FUND

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

Jack Silverstein by Jeff and Lois Eisen.

Anniversary wishes to:

Roz and Steve Frameth on their 35th wadding anniversary by Jeff and Lois Eisen.

Speedy recovery to: Harriet Sherman by Jeff and Lois Eisen.

CYNTHIA AND ABE ENGEL

Best wishes to:

Goldie Cantor in her new home in Toronto by Cynthia Engel

FRANK AND RITA ENGELS

FAMILY FUND

In memory of: Lucette Cairns by Rita Engels.

BARBARA AND LEN FARBER

ENDOWMENT FUND Special birthday wishes to

orb Farber by Carol and Stanley Kershman. Mezat Toy to:

Barb Farber on her position as President of UIA Federalion Canada by Carol and Stanley Kershman

ELLEN AND RANAMIM FATHI

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JOSNUA NILLEL FINN ENDOWMENT FUND

In appreciation to:
Paul and Jo Richter-Kleiman by Sharon and Paul

FLORENCE FAMILY MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of: Esther Smith, a dear mother by A.L. Smith, Anne

ROZ AND STEVEN FREMETH FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Joy and David Kardish on the birth of their grand-son by Roz end Stava Fremeth.

FRAN AND SID GERSNBERG FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to: Nicky Katz by Fran and Sid Gershberg.

STAN AND LIBBY GLUBE FAMILY FUND

In memory of:
Irving Frisch by Arlene and Norman Glube; and by Bay and Bryan Glube and Family.

Continued on page 68

FOUNDATION DONATIONS -

JACK AND GERT GOLDSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND In memory ot:

Norma White by Diane and Allen Abramson.

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Anniversary wishes to:
Max and Ellie Greenberg on their 25th wedding anniversary by Chick and Rose Taylor.

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MICHAEL GREENBERG MEMORIAL FUND Get well wishes to:

Is Shinder by Reesa Greenberg.

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Vera and Leslie Klein on their 35th wedding anniversary by Myra and Lester Aronson; and by Chick and Rose Taylor.

HANSER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Annie Hanser Lang, a very dear aunt by Isabel and Norman Lesh and Family.

MICHAEL DANIEL HILL MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of: Yonah Shiloni by the Hill Family. Mildred Reiss by the Hill Family

REBECCA AND DAVID HOFFMAN **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Birthday wishes to: Sheila Baslaw by Inge and Al Hoffman.

LIBBY AND STAN KATZ FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND Anniversary wishes to:

Libby and Stan Katz by Barbara, Leonard, Steven and Michael Farber; and by Sally and Morton Taller.

ARTHUR AND SARAH KIMMEL MEMORIAL FUND.

Special birthday wishes to:

Arthur Kessler by Roslyn and Arnie Kimmel. In memory of:

Norma White by Dan and Marilyn Kimmel; by Hildy and Steven Lesh; and by Isabet and Norman

DANIEL AND MARILYN KIMMEL **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Mazal Toy to: Marilyn and Dan Kimmel on the birth of their grandson by Hildy, Steven, Maya and Dahlia Lesh.

SUSAN AND DAVID KRIGER ENDOWMENT FUND Special birthday wishes to:

Max Smolkin on his 100th birthday by Shirley and Akiya Kriger.

RIVA AND ABRAHAM KROLL MEMORIAL FUND Birthday wishes to

Ellen Lithwick by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and

ISSIE AND EDITH LANDAU ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to: Bernie Rachlin on his 65th birthday by Edie Landau.

HARRY AND ZENA LEIKIN ENDOWMENT FUND Anniversary wishes to:

Fran and Ivan Kesler by Barb and Lenny Farber; and by Aunt Libby and Uncle Stan Katz.

NORMAN AND ISABEL LESH ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to: Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro on their 40th wedding anniversary by Isabel and Norman Lesh.

ARNOLD AND ROSE LITHWICK FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to: Freda Lithwick by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and Family.

Robert Myers brother by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and Family.

Anniversary wishes to:

Marietta and Barry Lithwick by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and Family.

Cindy and Richard Stein by Yvonne and Harvey

Lithwick and Family.

Sol and Estelle Gunner on their 45th wedding anniversary by Yvonne and Harvey Lithwick and

SAMUEL AND LEEMA MAGIDSON **ENDOWMENT FUND**

In memory of: Norma White by Trudy and Sheldon Wiseman; and by Roslyn and Amie Kimmel.

Irving Frisch by Leema Magidson and Family.

ETHEL AND DAVID MALEK ENDOWMENT FUND

B'tuah Sh'lemah to: David Malek by Edie Landau.

SEYMOUR AND JOY MENDER FAMILY FUND Anniversary wishes to:

Edith and Dave Appotive on their 65th wedding anniversary by Joy, Seymour, Jess, David and Jared

GERI MIGICOVSKY CICF FOUNDATION FOR THE PINCHAS ZUKERMAN MUSIC EDUCATION FUND

Geri Migicovsky by Reesa Greenberg.

JACK AND HONEY MONSON **ENDOWMENT FUND** Mazal Toy to:

David and Joy Kardish on the birth of their grandson by Dodie and Bram Potechin; and by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz

PINKUS AND YEHUDIT NEWMAN

Health and happiness to:

Kaysa and Alfred Friedman in their new home by Marilyn and Will Newman.

EDITH OKO - HILLEL LODGE -SYNAGOGUE TO ASSIST PEOPLE FUND Good health to:

Nikki Ages by Sandy Marchello. PREHOGAN FAMILY FUND IN MEMORY OF AARON HARRY COHEN

Congratulations to:

Ron and Avalee Prehogan on their son Harris graduating from Dental School by Rhoda, Jeff, Howard and Sara Miller.

tn memory of: Miriam Gordon by Ron Prehogan.

Birthday wishes to: Solly Patrontasch by Ron and Avalee Prehogan. Speedy recovery to: Jack Silverstein by Ron Prehogan.

FRANCES AND MORTON BOSS FUND Mazal Tov to:

Fran and Morton Ross and Family on their son Jonathan graduating with a MD/PhD by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor and Family.

Fran and Morton Ross on the engagement of their son Jonathan by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor and Family

SAMUEL AND RUTH ROTHMAN MEMORIAL FUND Mazal Toy to:

Susan and Stephen Rothman on the marriage of Drew to Sarah Rosenhek by Shelley, Stuart, Nina, P.J. and Marshall Bothman

Ellen and David Kardish on the birth of their son, Samuel Noah by Sue and Sleve Rothman.

SHELLEY AND SID ROTHMAN FAMILY FUND

Rachel Stern by Shelley, Stuart, Nina, P.J. and Marshall Rothman

Sid Rothman by Carol and Stanley Kershman and

Miriam Gordon by Shelley, Sluart, Nina, P.J. and Marshall Rothman. R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

Jack Silverstein by Shelley Rothman.

AL AND BETTY SEGAL MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Les Taller by Ned and Gail Segat and Family.

Continued on page 69





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Patrick Whitley by Ned and Gail Segal and |

ABRAHAM AND MARY SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzelt of:

Beatrice Zagon, a dear sister by Sheldon and

HAROLD SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to: Frances Shaffer by Phyllis and Les Weinstein.

ISRAEL AND JENNIE SHINDER ENDOWMENT FUND R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

is Shinder by Libby and Stan Katz.

FAY AND JOSEPH SHULMAN ENDOWMENT FUND Birthday wishes to:

Tracey Kronick on her 60th birthday by Marcia and

JACK AND SARAH SILVERSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND Speedy recovery to:

Jack Silverstein by Carol, Laurie, Byron and Noah Pascoe; by Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale; by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; by Bernie and Donna Dolansky; and by Ethel and Irving Taylor

SAM AND SUE SLACK ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of: Rachel Stern by David, Sharon, Ryan, Jay and Brody Appolive.

David and Edith Appotive on their 65th wedding anniversary by Sue Slack.

HARRIET AND IRVING SLONE ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to: Harriet Slone on her special birthday by Dundi and Lvon Sachs.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGEL **ENDOWMENT FUND**

in memory of: Bill Adler by Marla, Mark, Andrew, Samantha and

Mazal Toy to: Stan and Libby Katz on their wedding anniversary

by Laura and Gordon Spergel.
Irving and Elaine Singer on the engagement of their granddaughter by Laura and Gordon Spergel.

DORIS AND RICHARD STERN FAMILY FUND

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Glina on the marriage of their daughter by Doris and Richard Stem.

MAX AND PHYLLIS STERNTHAL FAMILY FUND In honour of:

Ely Lieff's Bar Mitzvah by Phyllis and Max

CASEY AND BESS SWEDLOVE ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to: Carol-Sue and Jack Shapiro on their 40th wedding anniversary by Libby and Stan Katz.

SAMUEL AND ANNE TALLER ENDOWMENT FUND

in memory of:

Pearl Simbrow by Morton and Sally Taller.

CHARLES AND RAE TAVEL MEMORIAL FUND Mazal Tov to:

Janice Pleet on the occasion of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah by Ellen and Stan Magidson.

CHARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Anniversary wishes to: Audrey and Steven Taylor by Chick and Rose

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

Mark Thaw on his 50th birthday by Michelle and Richard Sachs; and by Mark and Cindi Resnick.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Marilyn Samuels by Sandy Marchello.

HARRY AND RAE WEIDMAN MEMORIAL FUND Good health and happy and healthy New Year to: Roz and Myles Taller by Rena and Max Cohen.

ROBERT WENER AND LYNNE ORECK WENER **FAMILY FUND**

Birthday wishes to:

Frieda Ullman on his 90th birthday by Lynn Oreck Wener, Bobby Wener, Taryn, Eleni and Hart. Genevieve Freeman on her 50th birthday by Lynn

Oreck Wener, Bobby Wener, Taryn, Eleni and Hart.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER FAMILY FUND Congratulations to:

Michael and Munel Wexler on the marriage of their

son Shawn to Ebba Samuelson by Sandy Marchello.

ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Laraine Kaminsky's father Solly Marcus by Rick and Helen Zipes and family. Speedy recovery to:

Diane Robinson by Rick and Helen Zipes and

www.ojcf.ca or by phoning Bev Glube at 613-798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is bqlube@jewishottawa com

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Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy New Year!

May you find peace and prosperity in the coming year



Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation



An unveiling

in memory of

Casev **Swedlove**

will take place Sunday, September 9, 2007

at 11:00 am Bank Street Cemetery

Agudath Israel Section 7

Family and friends are welcome to attend

An unveiling

in loving memory of

William (Bill) Kahansky

will take place Sunday, September 9, 2007

at 10:30 am

Bank Street Cemetery

Machzikei Hadas

Homewatch

Family and friends are welcome to attend

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130 Albert St. Suite 714, Ottawa, ON. KIP 5G4 ccalder@carlsonwagonlit.ca // sgranatstein@carlsonwagonlit.ca Best wishes for a sweet, happy and healthy New Year. Shana Tova

Mitchell Bellman, Nicola Hamer Emma, Noah and Abby

From our family to yours, best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.
Shana Tova.

Mendy, Jason, Natalie and James Taller May you be inscribed for a year of joy and blessings.

> Jessie and Joe Murray

May you be inscribed for a year of joy and blessings.

Laura Greenberg and family May you and your family be richly blessed in the new year with health, happiness, peace and prosperity.

Ron, Avalee, Harris and Dara Prehogan

May you and yours be richly blessed throughout the coming year with health, peace and prosperity.

> Ian, Randi, Jonathan, Matthew and Adam Sherman

FORIPPY ROSD DRISDAIDAD

From our family to yours, best wishes

for a healthy and happy new year.

Shana Tova.

Archie and Linda Cogan

Lisa, Jayme, Tara, Liam and Jasper

May you be inscribed for a year of joy and blessings.

Joel, Heather, Matthew and Amanda Braverman



Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Shana Tova.

Rickie and Martin Saslove

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Shana Tova.

Vivien Frenkel, David Moher Ester and Sophie

From our family to yours, best wishes for a healthy and happy new year. Shana Toya.

Liz, Arnie, Ariel, Danya, Jordana, Alexandra, Michael and Tori Vered May you and yours be richly blessed throughout the coming year with health, peace and prosperity.

Chick and Rose Taylor

From our family to yours, we wish you a year of peace and prosperity, health and happiness.

Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Shana Tova. Laya and Ted Jacobsen

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year, Shana Tova.

Walter, Karen, Steven and Mitchell Fogel

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. Shana Tova.

Rhoda and Jeffrey Miller Howard and Sara May the new year bring all the blessings of peace, health and prosperity.
Shana Tova.

The Staff
of the
Ottawa Jewish Bulletin



The knish guys square off in the race to end all races

To commemorate our 30th Hove a Knish column in the last OJB, we're going to tell you about an event that truly tested our friendship

people think of us as an old married couple. We neither deny nor agree with this assessment.

For the longest time, Paul spoke about how much faster a runner he is compared to Byron. Paul challenged Byron to a foot race because Byron wouldn't admit that, even if they raced 1,000 times, he could never beat Paul.

When word got out to our friends that we were actually going to have a race, they called it "juvenile," "weird" and kind of idiotic.

We agreed with them but added, this might be one of the most important events we ever take part in.

As for the location, the choice was our high school track, While at Sir Robert Borden, gym was Byron's worst class, earning just a 60 per cent grade and making him seriously consider being a contestant on NBC's The Biggest Loser. His least favourite part was running the track. Paul, on the other hand, is an avid runner.

We were asked many questions leading up to the race including what we thought the advantages of our competition

Byron felt Paul had more physical advantages. "He's thin as a stick and the wind can carry him around the track faster."

Paul claimed the only advantage that Byron had is that he's a typical movie underdog. "However, this is real life and Byron really doesn't have any advantages. He is just a walking mountain of fat"

To remind everyone of this, on the back of Paul's customized race T-shirt was a picture of Byron eating a hamburg-er with the caption "Byron is fat." Byron's race day shirt said, "Team Pascoe."

We were asked to compare each other to an animal.

"He would be a sloth with really, really bad breath. Breath There has always been a competitive edge between us. Most so bad it kills plants before he can even eat them so he starves," said Paul.

> "I'd compare Paul to a giraffe, definitely not because of his height, but because giraffes have a hard time seeing what's below them. I hope I can find a way to sneak by," said Byron.

> Many race posters were made, including propaganda posters promoting one of our victories.

> Tensions were high in the weeks leading up to the highly anticipated and hyped (by us) race. While we're the best of friends and business partners, we had a media blackout. No calls, no e-mails, no communication between us for a few weeks. It's like how the bride and groom don't see each other before the chuppah!

> A weird mood set the tone and there seemed to be a distance between us. This inspired us to ensure we had fire within to win the race

> One of many controversies leading up to race day included the doughnut.

> Paul wrote in his blog he has never felt so confident as he does in beating Byron in a race. "I will be swallowing the sweet juice of victory as I smoke Byron across the finish line. I don't even have to move. I could eat donuts [sic] for three straight weeks, then race Byron and win by like a mile. I declare victory," wrote Paul.

> Byron unsuccessfully tried to get Paul to eat doughnuts leading up to the race. When Byron brought a doughnut to the race, it ended up being to his own detriment as he took a bite out of the doughnut in his pre-race speech and, then saw it again shortly in another form.

The night before the race, Paul ate a nice healthy meal of



Have Knish

Paul Teiner

Byron Pascoe

chicken and salad (no knishes, they slow you down). Byron spent part of his night at East Side Marios and rumour has it he may have ordered nachos.

Finally, the day had come, It was hot and sunny with a high of 29. Paul arrived to win. Byron, on the other hand, just wanted to have it over with.

There's something so simple and honest about a foot race. However, we were still tested for steroids the night prior and passed with flying colours, but hints of lox were found in our

We arrived in separate cars to the two-lap race around the track. People from everywhere (as far as Craig Henry) came out to see two morons with way too much time on their hands

After months of talk, anticipation, excitement, roasting, more roasting and suspense, the time had finally come. It felt like the American Idol finale. Fans brought lawn chairs, signs and their vocal chords to cheer whoever they wanted to win. We each gave a speech, dug our feet into the starting line ... and then with the sound of a gun, we were off.

To see The Race, visit youtube.com/paultelner.

There is a mature content warning on the race video itself, specifically, Paul's pre-race speech and Byron's post race health situation.

After the race, once we decided to talk again, we went out for dinner to Stella Osteria. Paul spent a lot of time talking up the waitresses while Byron dived into the vast alcohol menu to see what would help him relax. We sat in the main dining room overlooking the patio and street and agreed to never race again!

The great meal lcd to another typical Byron Paul moment. We couldn't find the car!

Have a knish

Start over again at Rosh Hashanah

Have you ever had the feeling you would like to start things over? You know, you messed up a bit and it would be just great if you just begin again, clean the slate and start fresh'.

Well, have I got a deal for you! On Rosh Hashanah, you can, if you wish and are ready to act, do just that. Just make sure you do it before Yom Kippur.

All you have to do is return, that's right, just come back. OK, if you're a big sinner, you might have to come back a long way but nevertheless, here's your chance. All you have to do is say mea culpa (I'm pretty sure it's something like that although I'm not sure I've got the right religion).

If you're Jewish, you get to confess to everybody else's sins as well as your own on the High Holidays because, you may be surprised to hear this, we're all in this together. You know, all the long lists of bad things you get to heat yourself up for even though it is really your neighbour who did them.

Apparently, it's also never too late to say, "I'm sorry. There is a catch. You have to mean it. It's not like the apology you offered when caught by the teacher sneaking out of class. You were sorry, for surc, sorry for being caught. Now you have to mean it in a different way. Now you have to be genuinely interested in being forgiven and in not doing things the same way in the future.

Hey, I know it's harder than it sounds. But that's the bottom line. And if you harmed somebody else, you have to ask them personally.

The Creator is pretty much a pushover, ready to forgive, at the least sign you are taking a step towards Him. People are a harder nut to crack. Not that you should crack anything, cholile. But you have to try. You get three tries.

So who do you think invented baseball?

i am not sure if you're out if you fail on your third swing at asking forgiveness. I will consult with people who know more about baseball than I do. Any rabbis in the house?



Humour me. nlease

And then you have to start acting on your new way of heing. Apparentl,y it's not enough to just say or think how you're going to do things differently. You actually have to do them differently. That's why it's no good making New Year's resolutions because those are all things we usually never get around to doing. They're things we like to think of - in the future some time.

Sometimes, I get the feeling that the Creator was in exactly this position when He invented the holiday (and all of creation) in the first place. That is, maybe it wasn't the first place. Maybe we all get a chance to start over because He knows what it's like to begin again.

You see, maybe you and I and the dog are really new improved versions of something that came before. But if that's so, I hope there is still room for improvements. Otherwise we may all have to be sent back to the factory. I don't think anybody wants to live to see that massive recall

So don't lose this once-a-year opportunity to restart your engine. You don't know how long it's going to be serviceable

t wish you a sweet and healthy year, but what you do for yourself will probably help more to achieve this than my good wishes. Just make sure to do the right thing!

This is a recorded message. It will start again in another



WHAT'S GOING ON September 3 to 16, 2007





CANDLELIGHTIN BEFORE

 WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5

SJCC, Celebrate & Save Open House for all ages (September 5-9).

Ottawa B'nal Brith Bowling League 2007-2008 Bowling Season Registration, McArthur Bowling Lanes, 175 McArthur Avenue,

The Greenberg Families Library Ottawa Jewish Film Society presents the documentary Hats of Jerusalem. Filmmaker Natl Adler presents the stories behind the various types of head gear encountered on the streets of Jerusalem, 7:30 pm.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6

Congregation Beth Shalom and Na'amat, "The Secret," a book review followed by presant atlon by Laugh with Me facilitator Suzi Sauve, Congregation Beth Canadian Friends ot Peace Now, World Interaction Modiale and One Volce Ottawa present "Encounter Point," tilm on building bridges between Israelis and palestinians, retreshments and informal dialogue atterwards, Library and Archives Canada, 335 Wellington Street, 7.00 pm.

Florence Mellon School Information night, 7:30 pm. Info; Maxine Miska at 613-798-9818 ext. 263 or mmiska@jccotttawa.com.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Agudath Israel Congregation presents a Selichot Concert, main Sanctuary, 10:30 am.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

SJCC, Celebrate & Save presenIs a children's play "A Fairy in the Mirror" by Groupo 55, free admission for Chai members

family, 2:00 pm.



The Inez and Joseph Zelikovitz Settlement Unit ot Jewish Family services presents Kleztory, renowned Montreal Klezmer band, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 2:00 pm. Tickets: 613-722-2225

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 Israeli Folkdancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, beginner steps, 6:30 pm, beginner dances, 7:00 pm, intermediate and advanced teaching and request dancing, 8:15 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 Congregation Belh Shalom, Kowar And Sonics, Carlo Street Cemetery, 11:00 am.

COMING SOON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, which has donated several dogs to its Israeli counferpart, annual golt tournament,

Rideau View Country Club. Into: 613-692-7777.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Jewish Federallon of Oftawa Annual Campalgn 2008 Kickoff,
World of Jewtopla, Centrepointe Theatre, 7:30 pm.
Tickets: 613-798-4696, ext. 232.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Jewish Federation of Ottawa, information Session for community Mission to Israel/Adult March of the Living, 7:00 pm.
Into: 613-798-4969, ext. 232.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Ottawa Jewish Historical Society lecture, Hymie Reichenstein speaks about The Art of Jewish Genealogy, Agudath Israel Synagogue, 7:30 pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

"Footprints, the 20th Century Jewish Exodus from Moslem Lands," a special event for Israel Advocacy and Tikkum Olam, Library and Archives Canada, 7:00 pm.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schaler, calendar coordinator at 738-9818 ext. 255. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9839 or email to bschaler@jccottawa.com.



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Can I help?

Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Maurice Ben-Kalifa Ilona Gal, Montreal (mother of Miriam Gal Taub)

Edna Goldfarb Solomon Kronick

Joseph Loomer, Calgary Ghita Schneiderman, Montreal (sister of Stephen Schneiderman) Ann Silverstone Helen Shusterman Pearl Takefman Beatrice Wright

Max Yegendorf, Montreal (father of Howard Yegendorf)

> May their memory be a blessing always.

The CONDOLENCE

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There is no charge.

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Bev Glube,
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BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 10 FOR OCTOBER 1
OCTOBER 3 FOR OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 17 FOR NOVEMBER 5
OCTOBER 31 FOR NOVEMBER 19
NOVEMBER 14 FOR DECEMBER 3 *

* Community-wide Issue (subject to change)